■ NEWS/A2

Manila Seedling Bank finds ally in Ombudsman

■ METRO/A19

PNP chief Lomibao approves filing of charges vs 14 TMG men in trader's accidental shooting

■ ACROSS/A16

8 injured in bus bombing in Digos City, Davao del Sur

■ WORLD/A22

Ariel Sharon's loyal No. 2 man wins Israeli election

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, March 30, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 112 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Tarlac restaurant sets up 'wall of fury' for hotheads

PAANO NA KUNG PROBLEMA NG BAYAN?

GERONA, TARLAC—Ardith Vescara is an angry young woman. On top of family and academic pressure, the 13-year-old Filipino says boys tease her at school.

But instead of letting her emotions eat away at

TARLAC/A8

No job crisis; Filipinos just choosy–Favila

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT LACKING IN WORK opportunities, but unemployed Filipinos are just fussy about the jobs that come their way, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said yesterday.

"We have plenty of jobs available in the country today, but the problem is some Filipinos are just *pihikan* or choosy," said Favila.

NO JOB CRISIS/A6

Erap: Chavit got ₱1.4B

Ousted President out to destroy my credibility, says Singson

By Nelson Flores

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA YESTERDAY CALLED Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson a liar and said the prosecution's star witness actually pocketed the millions in tobacco kickbacks that Singson allegedly delivered to Estrada in four boxes.

RAFFY LERMA

CHAVIT SINGSON: P70 million can fit in four boxes. Estrada is just reading his script.

In his second testimony at the 5-year-old trial, Estrada also alleged that before he assumed the presidency, Singson took P1.4 billion in advances and payments for overpriced and nonexisting construction projects in 1997-98.

Estrada and his defense team sought to discredit Singson, who claimed the ousted President received P130 million worth of tobacco excise tax payoffs from Ilocos Sur in four boxes.

The former actor-turned-politician said a reenactment at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the money could not fit in four boxes.

"That just goes to show that he is a liar," Estrada told the court.

But the Ilocos Sur governor told reporters during a break that he never testified that the entire sum fit the boxes. Singson said he gave Estrada directly P70 million and the rest went to Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and an Estrada associate, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Singson said the P70 million could fill four boxes.

Prosecutors accuse Estrada of amassing

ERAP/A10

"THE STAR WITNESS IS A LIAR," former President Estrada testifies for the second time on Wednesday at the Sandiganbayan. The prosecution case rests almost entirely on the testimony of Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson who claimed Estrada took millions of pesos in tobacco tax kickbacks and amassed billions in "jueteng" payoffs. RAFFY LERMA

SC clear on people's initiative: Needs enabling law

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT legally pursue a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution because a Supreme Court ruling is clear on the need for an enabling law, an official of the tribunal's press information office said yesterday.

In a phone interview with justice reporters, lawyer Gleo Guerra, director of the press information office under Ismael Khan Jr., pointed out that the high court had already ruled on Republic Act No. 6735.

"Unfortunately, on RA 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Act of 1989, [the court ruled that it was] ... inadequate to cover the system of a people's initiative," Guerra said.

"Whatever their plans are, they would have to take into consideration that there is a decision promulgated by the court, and until it is reversed, they have to abide by it," she said of the groups and agencies actively pursuing a signature campaign for Charter change.

"What they need is an enabling or implementing law," she said.

But Guerra raised the possibility that the high court could change its mind on the matter, given the fact that two of the six justices who had registered a separate opinion in 1997 continued to be senior members of the tribunal.

The two are Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno.

Guerra said this could be the reason Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. gave the go-signal on Tuesday for local registrars to start verifying the signatures.

"If we refer to the dissenting

SC CLEAR/A6

US court may grant bail to Lacson's former aide

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FORMER PNP SUPT. MICHAEL Ray Aquino, detained in the United States in connection with allegations he passed on pilfered intelligence papers to Philippine opposition leaders, may be granted bail before his trial in October, an NBI official said yesterday.

Quoting US Assistant Attorney Karl Buch of the District of New Jersey, NBI Interpol Division chief Ricardo Diaz said there was a possibility that a US court might grant Aquino provisional liberty "because he did not commit a heinous crime."

"He was only charged with conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent, which could cost him a total of 15 years

US COURT/A10

Red leaders urge NPA to expand use of land mines vs military

AS THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY MARKS ITS 27th founding anniversary today, its leaders urged guerrillas to employ land mines in operations against the Philippine military in spite of international sanctions against their use.

The central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in an e-mail statement, called on its armed wing to mount attacks, using land mines, especially against the lines and means of transport, installations, depots and other facilities vital to the government's counterinsurgency campaign.

"We can inflict casualties on an advancing enemy force by using land mines, small teams and snipers," said the CPP in an e-mailed statement.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said tactical offensives would continue every time there was an opportunity to carry out a successful operation.

The NPA's use of land mines has been criticized by the military who said the weapon had long been banned by the United Nations in the conduct of armed hostilities.

Established on March 29, 1969, the NPA had

RED LEADERS/A6

LYN RILLON

PRESIDENT ARROYO is guest speaker at the 27th graduation rites of the PNP Academy in Silang, Cavite. With her are Vice President De Castro and Interior Secretary Puno.

Police officer in bulletproof car shot dead

IN COLD BLOOD: The bullet that pierced this car's glass window killed Chief Insp. Renato Marasigan at the corner of Jacinto and Jabson Streets in Pasig City. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CHIEF INSP. RENATO MARASIGAN DROVE his bulletproof Mitsubishi Pajero out of his garage past 10 a.m. yesterday to report for work.

Five minutes later, as he was slowing down at the corner of Jabson and Jacinto Streets in front of a health center at Barangay Malinao, Pasig City, four men wearing maroon shirts casually walked up to his white Pajero and opened fire, killing him.

The 53-year-old policeman suffered five bullet wounds in his face and head. The Pajero's armor that he and his wife Venus had invested in for added security some three years ago did not protect him from the assassins' gunfire.

To be dead sure, one of the gunmen even walked to the driver's side where Marasigan lay bloodied. He opened the door and fired another shot to Marasigan's head, said Pasig police investigation chief, Chief Insp. Dennis Macalintal.

The tragic death ended some 30 years of

POLICE/A7

To save 'castle,' SVD priests to put on waiter's uniform

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF IT'S APRIL 8 AND THE WAITER bearing your dinner looks suspiciously like your favorite priest from the Divine Word Missionaries, he probably is.

On the evening of that day, certain servants of the Lord—INQUIRER columnist Fr. Jerry Orbos and at least eight other SVD priests—will take on their apostolic role quite literally and serve dinner to some 1,000 guests at "The Castle."

Now why would Orbos and company doff their cassock for a *polo barong* and an apron? To kick off the ambitious project of raising P15 million by 2008 for The Castle's much-needed rehabilitation.

The distinctive structure is the 73-year-old Buttenbruch Building, the first put up by German SVD priests to mark the birth of the sprawling Christ the King Seminary on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

No one's taking the waiter job lightly, according to Fr. Cris Cordero, who heads the fundraising project called "Pasiglahin ang Kastilyo ni Kristo."

This week, Cordero and his fellow SVD priests—Orbos, Arlo Yap, Glenn Gomez, Pabs Tagura, Gerry Donato, Redz Domino, Ring Malbug and Ely Mata—will hurdle a crash course on restaurant work, including how to walk with a tray, where to put the utensils, when to serve the courses, or,

TO SAVE/A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FRONTPAGE
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/29/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Biazon presses GMA on Mayuga report

By Philip C. Tubeza

OPPOSITION SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON YESTERDAY ACCUSED President Macapagal-Arroyo of "obstructing" constitutional processes by refusing to provide the Commission on Appointments with a copy of the report of the Armed Forces investigation into the "Hello Garci" tapes.

But Biazon, who sits on the CA national defense committee, posed no objections to the confirmation of Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, the author of the report, who breezed through his CA confirmation hearings yesterday and confirmed the same day by the plenary.

Asked why he did not grill Mayuga, Biazon said "he has no more role to play in this. The issue is out of his hands."

Biazon said Mayuga could not be questioned about the report as it was covered by Executive Order 464 which also prevented the admiral from talking about it. EO 464 requires executive branch officials to get clearance from the President to appear before congressional hearings.

"This is now at the mercy of the President. We cannot force her for as long as she continues to invoke EO 464 and for as long as the Supreme Court fails to render a ruling on the constitutionality of EO 464," Biazon said.

The senator, who chairs the Senate national defense committee that is investigating the "Hello Garci" scandal, said the Mayuga report should be made public to help settle allegations that the administration cheated in the 2004 presidential elections and used the military for this purpose.

He said it was crucial to his committee investigation as four generals were mentioned in the Garci tapes as having been allegedly involved in election fraud.

He said the President was obstructing the functions of the CA by not providing the commission with a copy of the report.

"I am just wondering, is there something in the report that is preventing the President from showing it to the public?" he said.

The CA committee on national defense recommended the confirmation of Mayuga, the Philippine Navy's flag officer in command, and 17 other military officers after a hearing that lasted only 40 minutes. Mayuga was not even called on to answer questions from the CA members.

Also yesterday, Biazon filed Resolution No. 477 calling for a Senate probe into the reported plot to kill the President at the Philippine Military Academy graduation ceremonies last March 25.

"The announcement of the existence of an assassination plot on the life of the President is destabilizing. If it is true, we need to examine the pertinent laws on national security to provide for maximum protection to the Presidency, not just President Arroyo," Biazon told reporters.

He said he wanted to know if the administration was using the alleged assassination plot "to pave the way for more repressive measures."

ORPHAN GRADUATES
A young woman who was orphaned by the landslide that killed hundreds in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, offers a prayer and her graduation cap to her parents during yesterday's graduation rites. In the background is the mountain that collapsed on the ill-fated barangay on February 17.

JANI ARNAIZ

RP hosts 'Oceans 38' to save world seas

By Blanche S. Rivera

CALL THEM THE OCEANS' 38.

The Philippines, along with Portugal and Indonesia, is leading 13 Asian countries and 25 European Union member states in one of the biggest international efforts to save the world's oceans and marine resources from further depletion.

The country hosted yesterday the opening of the first technical working group meeting on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Oceans Initiative, drawing environment officials from the ASEM nations, as well as representatives from the European Commission.

The ASEM's initiative comes as experts estimated that 75 percent of the world's population will be living in coastal areas by 2025, putting tremendous pressure on the world's marine resources.

The meeting, held in Makati City until tomorrow, highlighted the seas of East Asia, which has a combined coastline of 234,000 km and about a billion people on its coasts.

A study by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea) showed that 11 percent of coral reefs in East Asia, which has a third of the earth's coral reefs, have collapsed while nearly half are in critical condition.

Seventy percent of the region's mangrove areas have been converted or exploited, and 20 to 60 percent of its sea grass beds were in poor state.

"If nothing is done, given their current rate of loss, the remaining coral reefs will be wiped out within 20 years and the mangroves will be gone by the year 2030," Chua Thia Eng, director of Pemsea said in his presentation at the Peninsula Manila Hotel yesterday.

"The severity of the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean is a consequence of the rampant destruction of these habitats in many of the affected countries," he said.

East Asia covers the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, Sulu-Celebes Seas and the Indonesian seas. It accounts for 41 percent of the world's fish catch and 80 percent of aquacultural products.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the UNESCO noted that 75 percent of the 132 member states of the United Nations who committed to sustainable development during the summit in South Africa in 2002 have failed to meet the target of eliminating illegal fishing and overfishing.

The IOC also said that the goal of establishing networks of marine protected areas, which should be in place by 2012, would be achieved only by 2085 at the rate the nations are going.

Only five percent of the coral reefs in the Philippines, one of the world's 17 megadiversity nations, are in excellent condition while the rest are either critically damaged or at risk.

Seedling bank finds an ally in Ombudsman

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE MANILA SEEDLING BANK Foundation Inc. scored an initial victory in its tax battle with the Quezon City government after the Office of the Ombudsman directed the local government to run after the National Housing Authority for the tax delinquency.

In a letter to Quezon City treasurer Victor Endriga, the Ombudsman's Public Assistance Bureau said the government should collect the taxes from the NHA and not the MSBFI because the NHA was the owner of the property.

"This refers to your attempt to collect taxes from Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, Quezon City, which is not the registered owner of [the land]... Kindly address collection of taxes to registered owner, National Housing Authority," lawyer Marlyn Torres-Galvez of the Ombudsman's office said.

The letter from the Ombudsman's office was dated Dec. 21, 2005 but the MSBFI received it only this month.

"At least they will not bother us anymore. We are not liable... Their fight is with the NHA now," MSBFI president Lucito Bertol said in a phone interview.

'Tax delinquent'

The Quezon City government is claiming ownership of the the seven-hectare lot where the MSBFI is situated, because it said the foundation had failed to pay some P59 million in real property taxes since its inception in 1978.

Endriga issued a notice of tax delinquency to the MSBFI in October 2005 and warned that the property would be auctioned off in December 2005 if the foundation failed to settle the unpaid taxes.

The MSBFI contested Endriga's notice, but the Quezon City government decided to proceed with the auction anyway. It ended up laying claim to the property when no one turned up to bid for the lot.

The Quezon City government plans to create a commercial hub in the 25-hectare area comprising the East Triangle and North Triangle districts of Quezon City.

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION IN MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS
Auction Dates:
March 31 - April 3, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
Inspection Dates:
March 23 - 30, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
1 of 30 Bulldozers
1 of 80 Excavators
MITSUBISHI CAT MS450-8 Excavator
1 of 30 Wheel Loaders
1 of 15 Motor Graders
CAT 120G Motor Grader
1 of 5 Cranes
1 of 70 Dropside Cargos
ISUZU Forward FRR Alum. Dropside Cargo
ISUZU 10W Self Loader Truck
1 of 70 Dropside Cargos
1 of 20 Bus
1 of 12 Transit Mixers
ISUZU 10W Mixer Truck
1 of 10 Garbage Compactors
ISUZU Forward Garbage Compactor
1 of 30 Ref. Vans
To Manila
To Baguio
NORTH Expressway
EAST SERVICE ROAD
AUCTION SITE
ROYAL MALL
EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN
For inquiries please call:
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16
Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 858-8888
Email us: info@auctioninmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctioninmalinta.com

Results of bar exams out today

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR THOSE WHO TOOK THE BAR EXAMINATIONS IN September last year, today will either be a moment of great joy or sadness.

A total of 5,611 law graduates, the biggest batch in the exam's 100 year history, completed the 2005 bar exams in the hope of joining the ranks of law practitioners in the country.

Associate Justice Romeo J. Callejo, chair of the 2005 bar examinations, said the results will be displayed today on wide-screen monitors strategically placed at the Supreme Court's front yard along Padre Faura Street in Manila.

Bar examination results will also be posted on the court's website – www.supremecourt.gov.ph.

For the first time since it was held in 1901, the Supreme Court applied in the 2005 bar examinations the "five-strike" rule which limits to five the number of times a candidate could take the bar exams.

Through the country's history, the outcome of the bar exams has catapulted hitherto unknown individuals to national prominence.

Based on the court's pre-war bar results, former President Manuel Roxas made history in 1913 when he topped the exams with an average score of 92.

The following year, Manuel Goyena surpassed the record of Roxas with 93.

In 1930, Tecla San Andres-Ziga, who later became senator, made history by becoming the first woman to top the bar exams with a score of 89.4.

It took seven years later for former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia A. Munoz-Palma to break Ziga's record by scoring 92.6.

In 1936, Diosdado Macapagal, who would later become President, placed first in the exams with a score of 89.85.

Three years later, former strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos topped the bar by scoring 92.35. Marcos reviewed for the exams while facing indictments for the alleged murder of a political enemy of his father.

Drug lords turn to floating shabu labs

By Alcuin Papa

THE COUNTRY'S TOP ANTI-NARCOTICS cop said yesterday that drug syndicates were now using yachts anchored off the coast as "floating drug laboratories" to manufacture shabu and other drugs peddled illegally throughout the country.

Police Director Marcelo Ele, chief of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, told reporters at a forum in Greenhills, San Juan, yesterday that the Coast Guard and perhaps even the Philippine Navy should step up patrols of the country's coastline to go after the offshore drug manufacturers.

"Shabu is now manufactured on ships in the high seas. Drug syndicates can't afford to... risk their chemists on land, so why not manufacture the stuff out in the sea," Ele said.

He said intelligence reports indicated that drug manufacturers had shifted to producing shabu aboard ships instead of land-based facilities in the wake of successive police raids on shabu laboratories in Metro Manila.

The country's coastline measures 36,289 kilometers, almost twice that of the United States.

Marooned at sea, 3 American tourists, 4 others rescued off Misamis

POLICE RESCUED SEVEN PEOple, including three American tourists, who were stranded for three days at sea, officials said on yesterday.

Jesus Verzosa, a police general, said police sent rescue boats to bring the stranded tourists to a coastal village in Misamis Oriental after local fishermen reported a boat adrift.

"For three days, they were marooned in the sea and luckily they were spotted by fishermen in the area," said Verzosa, adding the American tourists had been brought to Cebu to be reunited with their friends.

Verzosa said the three tourists and four others left Bohol island on March 19 to Camiguin island on the northern tip of Mindanao, but the engine of their wooden boat failed at mid-sea.

The boat drifted towards the mainland Mindanao island, where they were rescued by coastal police. *Reuters*

ST. LUKE'S EARS, NOSE AND THROAT SERVICES

Knowing I'm with the best makes me feel better already.

"I already had sinus surgery in two other hospitals but it was only at St. Luke's that I felt really better. I felt I was in good hands. The doctors were in control. Nothing compares with the equipment and the expertise of the medical team at St. Luke's. I feel better now. My sense of smell is back. It's reassuring that I did not settle for anything less than the best."

Rosalie C. Ong
Housewife, Mother of 5
Underwent Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery at
St. Luke's Department of Otorhinolaryngology

MEDICAL EXPERTISE THAT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST - *St. Luke's boasts of a top-caliber, highly trained team of experts:* (From R-L)

Dr. Benjamin S. A. Campomanes Jr., Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, is one of the country's pioneers in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery. In 1988, he took a course in Functional Endoscopic Surgery at the prestigious Johns Hopkins University. He pursued his passion for medical excellence with rotating fellowships at Charing Cross/Royal Brompton (England), University of Utrecht (The Netherlands), and the University of Graz (Austria). Dr. Campomanes is a regular visiting faculty for endoscopic sinus surgery at Seoul National University in Korea.

Dr. Gil M. Vicente, Chief of the Section of Rhinopharyngology, is also one of the pioneers in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery in the Philippines. He trained at the University of Marburg, Fulda State Hospital in Germany and University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA. He is a Past President of the International Symposium on Infection and Allergy of the Nose and guest faculty in various international meetings.

Dr. Windolyn D. Panganiban, a Smell and Taste specialist, trained at the Smell and Taste Center of the University of Pennsylvania. She handles testing and management of complaints pertaining to smell and taste disorders.

Dr. Joel A. Romualdez is an expert in Image-Guided Surgery. This high-tech procedure for ENT surgery, which provides surgeons a clear and precise inside view of the patient's nose and paranasal sinuses, is offered only at St. Luke's. Dr. Romualdez trained at the University Hospital of Bern (Switzerland). He works with the surgical team to determine the exact location of disease.

Only the best is accredited by :

© Joint Commission INTERNATIONAL

St. Luke's Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

St. Luke's offers the best treatment for diseases of the nose and paranasal sinuses with its state-of-the-art equipment that include: Video Endoscopes, Microdebridders, Endoscrub, Acoustic Rhinometer, Image-guided Surgery System.

The Department offers yearly Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Course and Workshop with distinguished International Faculty.

Only the best can make you feel better.

St. Luke's Medical Center 1903
St. Luke's Medical Center
One of the world's best

www.stluke.com.ph

St. Luke's Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery is better staffed and better equipped than any other ENT institution in the Philippines, old or new.

279 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City 1102, Philippines Tel: 7230101/7230301 Fax : 7231199 E-mail : info@stluke.com.ph

CALL THE INQUIRER CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE 896-6000

DONT MISS YOUR COPY!

Is Your Body Bikini-Ready?

Wouldn't it be nice to wear a sexy bikini for a change when you head out to the beach this year? Do, this quick test to see how bikini-ready your body is.

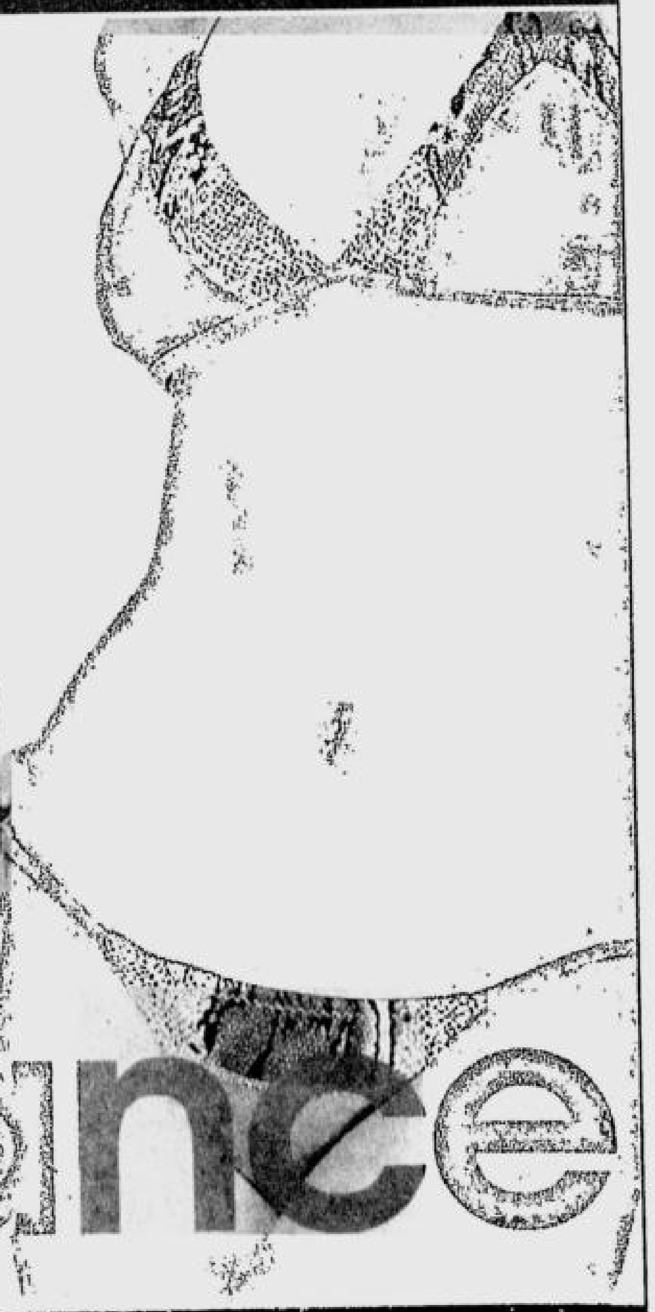
	READY	NOT READY
Waistline	☐ Slim	☐ Thick
Abs	☐ Flat	☐ Bulging
Arms	☐ Slender	☐ Flabby
Thighs	☐ Shapely	☐ Plump
Buttocks	☐ Firm	☐ Sagging

Even if only one body part is not ready, now is the time to decide what you need to change and call Marie France. We'll slim you down with NO surgery, NO diet, NO exercise, NO pills and NO injections. Get ready for summer, call Marie France now. You'll love it – so will he!

Enroll now and get 2 FREE PHYSIQUE INCH-LOSS TREATMENTS from March 27-31, 2006 only!

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1817, Series of 2006

Call 894-BODY (2639)



marie france

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

PAMPI

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEAT PROCESSORS, INC. (PAMPI)

Sec. Panganiban Inducts New PAMPI Officers Today.

FELIX TIUKINHOY, JR. PRESIDENT VIRGINIA FOOD, INC. **ALLAN CASTRO** VICE PRESIDENT THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL CO., INC. **JULIETA MANALO** SECRETARY NENITA QUALITY FOODS, INC. **JOYCE ALCOREZA** TREASURER DEALCO FARMS **JEROME D. ONG** PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOODSPHERE, INC. **REY LAPID** DIRECTOR R. LAPID'S CHICHARON **RICKY HIZON** DIRECTOR PAMPANGA'S BEST **BUTCH PRIETO** DIRECTOR SWIFT FOODS, INC. **TED PO** DIRECTOR THE PACIFIC MEAT CO., INC. **FRANCISCO BUENCAMINO** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban will induct the new set of officers and directors of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors of the Philippines, Inc. (PAMPI) at the prime tourist destination of Panglao Island in Bohol on March 30, coinciding with the group's 17th anniversary celebration.

PAMPI groups 35 of the largest food companies in the Philippines, with combined annual revenues of P60 billion, representing 90 percent of the country's total income from the meat processing sector.

With the theme "Fostering a Strong Partnership Between the Government and Private Sector for Economic Recovery", the induction to be held at the Bohol Beach Club at 7p.m. highlights the contribution of the multi-billion meat processing industry to the Philippine economy.

To be inducted into the PAMPI board are Felix Tiukinhoy, Jr. of Virginia Food, Inc., who was reelected for the eighth time as president; Allan Castro of the Purefoods-Hormel Co., Inc., vice president; Julie Manalo of Nenita Quality Foods, Inc., secretary; Joyce Alcoreza of Dealco Farms, treasurer; and Jerome Ong of Foodsphere Inc., PRO.

Elected as board directors of PAMPI are Rey Lapid of R. Lapid's Chicharon, Ricky Hizon of Pampanga's Best, Butch Prieto of Swift Foods, Inc., and Ted Po of The Pacific Meat Co., Inc.

According to Francisco J. Buencamino, who was reappointed as PAMPI executive director, the event will draw attention to the importance of forging a close alliance between the government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, and the private sector represented by local producers and meat processors in making available to the Filipino consumers high-quality and affordable meat products.

Buencamino noted that the local meat processing industry provides 60,000 direct and indirect jobs and supports businesses such as packaging, canning, advertising, printing, media, retail trade, among others.

Buencamino lauded the Department of Agriculture for initiating programs that help hog-raisers and other producers upgrade their production capacity and technical capability to meet the product specifications of meat processors.

At the same time, the PAMPI executive director emphasized the importance of strengthening the partnership between domestic producers and meat processors to ensure the steady supply of good quality manufacturing grade meat, which serves as the raw materials for the meat packers.

He said an open line of communication between the two sectors will result in more vigorous meat industry, since this will encourage domestic producers to respond to the raw material requirements of the processors in terms of quality, quantity and price.

The meat processors, he added, are willing to increase their orders from the domestic producers as long as standards are met.

Buencamino said the growth of the industry hinges on the capability of the domestic producers and meat processors to produce low-cost meat products, which now account for about two-thirds of the meat industry in the Philippines.

He said most of these low-cost meat products are in the forms of fresh processed meat sold at wet markets and canned goods like corned beef, karne norte, meat loaf, beef loaf, hotdogs and sausages, which are readily available at all distribution channels nationwide.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

I.	National Anthem	- **Ms. Floram Campo** New Food Coatings Philippines, Inc.
II.	Invocation	- **Fr. Ernesto Lagura, SVD** Holy Name University
III.	Welcome Remarks	- **Mr. Teofilo Gementiza** Leslie Food Corporation
IV.	Introduction of Members	- **Mr. Dindo Danao** Foodsphere, Inc.
V.	Introduction of Guests	- **Dr. Manuel Rocha** PAMPI Consultant
VI.	Fellowship Dinner Del Monte Cocktail Launch Cultural show by Holy University dance troupe	
VII.	Presentation of New Officers & Directors	- **Ms. Chiqui Oly** PAMPI Secretariat
VIII.	Induction Ceremonies	- **Hon. Sec. Domingo Panganiban** Department of Agriculture
IX.	Acceptance Speech	- **Mr. Felix Tiukinhoy, Jr.** Virginia Foods, Inc.
X.	Introduction of Guest of Honor	- **Mr. Francisco Buencamino** PAMPI Executive Director
XI.	Keynote Speech	- **Hon. Sec. Domingo Panganiban** Department of Agriculture
XII.	Closing Remarks	- **Mr. Allan Castro** The Purefoods-Hormel Co., Inc.

Hosted by:
Ms. Angie Castillo, Del Monte Phils., Inc. **Mr. John Philip King** of King's Quality Foods, Inc.

Cordial greetings to the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI) as you hold your Induction of the Members of the Board of Directors and Officers.

Your organization has always been at the forefront of our government's efforts to augment our initiatives to provide food security for our people. You are among our frontliners in making sure that the food on the table of every Filipino family is safe and nutritious.

May you always uphold the highest standards of quality in the processing of all your meat product as we aim to provide Filipino consumers with world-class products.

It is my fervent hope that you will support us in beating the odds and in attaining a better life for our people.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Congratulations to the Incoming Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI) on their induction on March 30, 2006.

The country's meat processing industry has survived diverse challenges as a consequence of, among other things, the advent of borderless economy and animal disease outbreaks from neighboring countries. These factors also brought about the introduction of new and stringent food safety and the affordability of your products. The industry must adapt innovations through constant research and development in order to succeed in today's world.

May this event inspire you to come up with innovative ideas in meat processing that will make your products more affordable and of better service to the common people.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
VICE-PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

For seventeen years, the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Incorporated (PAMPI) has been among the most outstanding components of agriculture-based industry in the Philippines.

What this organization accomplishes – through greater emphasis on civic and corporate social responsibility – is an important demonstration that profitable modernization is best attained in an inclusive society.

The thrust of the Philippine government's agricultural growth efforts today is to arrange harmonious economic and social policies. That is, to provide a link between free enterprise, fairness, and equitable progress.

I am pleased that PAMPI continues to uphold and support that crucial link.

And so it is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest felicitations to the members of the organization on this, PAMPI's 17th anniversary, and congratulate its newly inducted officers and directors.

Let me assure you that PAMPI enjoys the Department of Agriculture's fullest support.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
SECRETARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO BOHOL!

On the occasion of the 17th year anniversary of PAMPI, I wish to congratulate the energetic members of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. who have all been tenacious players of the processed meat sector who have relentlessly contributed to the food security of the Filipinos.

Our sector has weaved in and out of troubled times, at times enjoying seasons of good and strong business, and we have all demonstrated stability in unity, growth with competition, and profitability with expertise. All these experiences have factored into our contribution to food security, food affordability, and most of all, steady delivery wholesome and safe food to the Filipino people.

We chose the theme "Fostering a Strong Partnership with the Government for Economic Recovery" because of the politically troubled times that our administration is undergoing. We endeavor to help in their efforts towards stability by supporting our domestic alliances with local producers, always in balance with wise management of our food prices for the benefit of the ultimate consumer. In this way, we can directly contribute to continuing employment and farmers' incomes, yet still able to keep our prices affordable and reasonable.

In the dialogue that will undoubtedly ensue during this evening's affair with Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban, we hope to align our efforts and programs with that of government, with the equal expectation that government will continue and improve its support to our industry sector to allow us more latitude for growth, stability, and viability.

Congratulations to the incoming directors and officers of PAMPI for the fiscal year 2006-2007, and many many thanks to the outgoing officers of 2005-2006 for your dedication and hard work to keep PAMPI in the forefront of the food industry.

FELIX O. TIUKINHOY, JR.
PRESIDENT-PAMPI

Member Companies: A. TUNG CHINGCO CENTER • ALENTER FOOD, INC. • BURGER MACHINE, INC. • DEL MONTE PHILS., INC. • DEALCO FARMS • ELDON INDUSTRIAL CORP. • EURO-SWISS FOOD, INC. • FOODSPHERE, INC. • GENOSI, INC. • GOLD RIBBON FOODS, INC. • JAKA FOOD PROCESSING CORP. • JOLLIBEE FOOD CORPORATION • KELOWNA FOOD CORPORATION • KING SUE HAM & SAUSAGES CO. • KING'S QUALITY FOODS • LAMI FOOD PRODUCTS CORP. • LESLIE FOOD CORPORATION • MLM FOODS, INC. • MONTEREY FOODS CORPORATION • MOTHER EARTH PRODUCTS, INC. • NENITA QUALITY FOODS CORP. • NEW FOOD COATINGS (PHILS.), INC. • PAMPANGA'S BEST • RENO FOODS • R. LAPID'S CHICHARON • ROYAL CARGO COMBINED LOGISTICS, INC. • SOUTHERN PROCESSING CORP. • SUNPRIDE FOODS, INC. • SWIFT FOODS, INC. • THE PACIFIC MEAT CO., INC. • THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL CO., INC. • VIRGINIA FOOD, INC. • VELFRAM FOODS CORP. • WCD INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORP. • PRIVATE CAPITAL OF ASIA LTD.

MAJOR SPONSORS

Allanasons Limited

Al Kabeer

Oriental

FMC FoodTech

VISCOFAN

GEMECO

TURRIS/SOLBAR

HIND GROUP
HIND AGRO INDUSTRIES LIMITED

FOREMOST FARMS

BOHOL BEACH CLUB

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

Mining investors' fears on RP allayed

SINGAPORE – FOREIGN INVESTORS have nothing to worry about investing in the Philippines despite a review of the country's mining law following pressure from the country's powerful Catholic Church, head of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said on Wednesday.

"I doubt very much that it will ever change. That would lead to a loss of absolute credibility on the part of the Philippine government and the Philippine President. So no way," said Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the chamber and head of Benguet, the country's oldest mining company.

The Philippines is dependent on foreign investors to tap an estimated $1 trillion in mineral wealth, but some analysts have said Manila's apparent willingness to rewrite laws could jeopardize efforts to attract $6.5 billion in funding for the once mighty mining sector.

The government has said re-examination of the law, which allows for full foreign ownership of local mines, was simply to address environmental concerns raised by the country's powerful Catholic bishops and not a re-write of ownership rules.

Rich in deposits

Romualdez said the Church had first urged the government to repeal the law in 1998 after an accident at a copper mine.

"This second call is probably going to lead to nowhere, especially after the Philippine government has undertaken so much effort into promoting the mining industry," Romualdez told Reuters on the sidelines of a mining conference.

"In fact, the mining industry, through the Chamber of Mines, has already reached out to the Catholic Church for a dialogue for us to explain what the benefits of the law are, and what benefit the mining industry brings to the community," he said.

The Philippines ranks among the world's top five countries for deposits of copper, nickel and iron ore and is geographically closer to resource-hungry China than the region's other major mining center, Indonesia.

But political instability and legal problems have discouraged investors from pouring money into the Philippines.

There have been more than a dozen coup attempts since the ousting of former strong man Ferdinand Marcos.

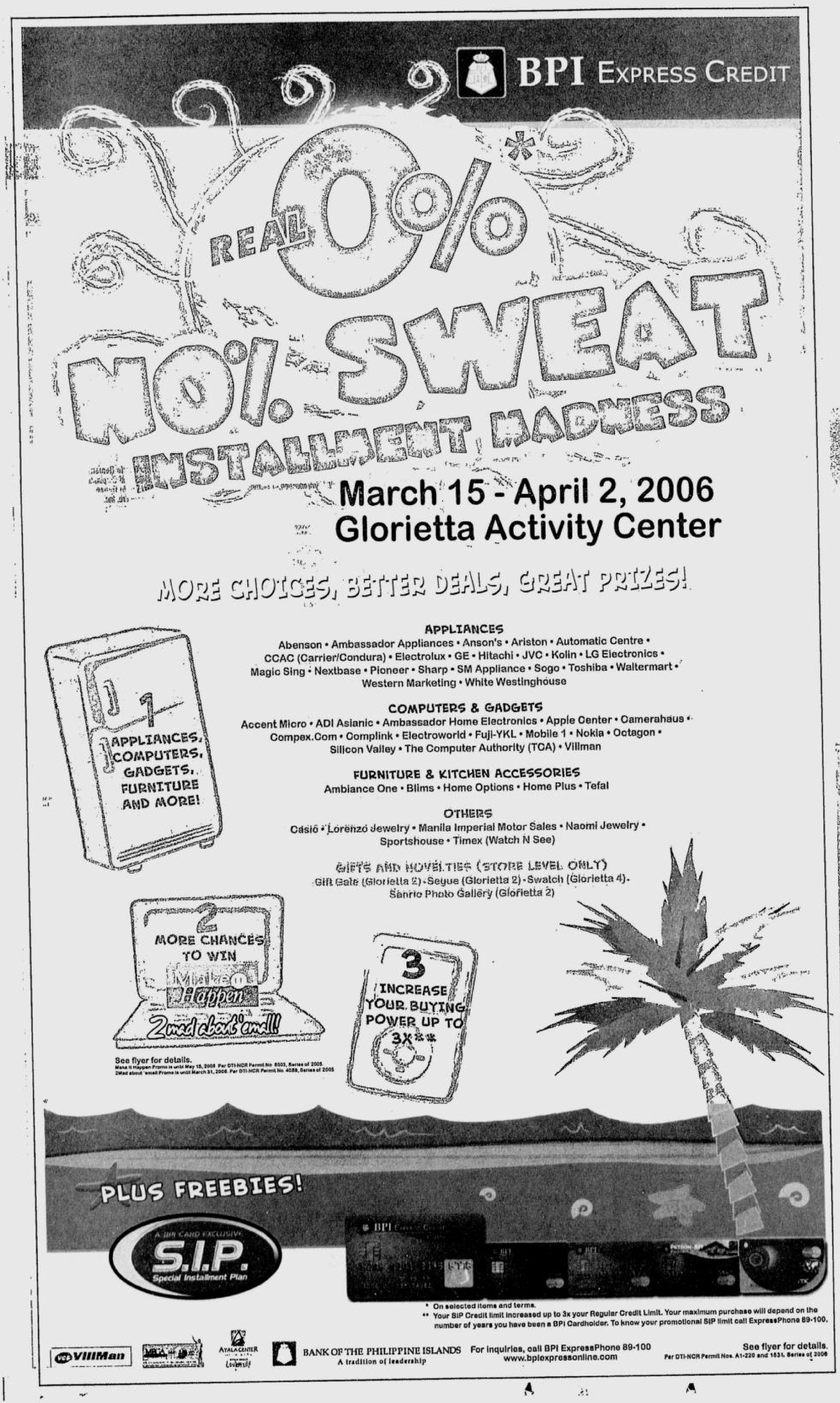
Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo uncovered a coup plot and declared a week-long state of emergency, which she said gave her the power, if necessary, to take over privately owned utilities.

Australia's Lafayette Mining became the first foreign firm in nearly 40 years to develop a Philippine mine but cyanide leaks last year sparked a wave of anti-mining protests, especially among the mainly Catholic bishops.

Romualdez said investors should not hesitate to invest in the Philippines, adding that President Arroyo had personally invited mining executives to invest in the country.

"Investors should not worry at all," he said.

"Even if the government is bent on amending the law, it would take several years before the law would then be changed," he said. *Reuters*



BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
REAL 0%*
NO% SWEAT INSTALLMENT MADNESS
March 15 - April 2, 2006
Glorietta Activity Center
MORE CHOICES, BETTER DEALS, GREAT PRIZES!

APPLIANCES
Abenson • Ambassador Appliances • Anson's • Ariston • Automatic Centre • CCAC (Carrier/Condura) • Electrolux • GE • Hitachi • JVC • Kolin • LG Electronics • Magic Sing • Nextbase • Pioneer • Sharp • SM Appliance • Sogo • Toshiba • Waltermart • Western Marketing • White Westinghouse

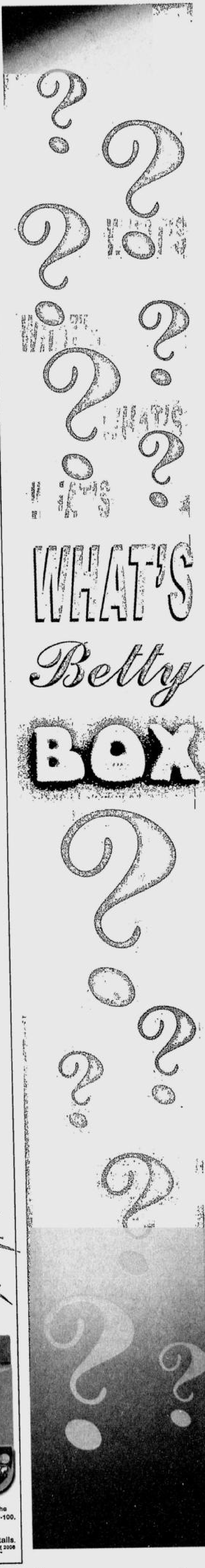
COMPUTERS & GADGETS
Accent Micro • ADI Asianic • Ambassador Home Electronics • Apple Center • Camerahaus • Compex.Com • Complink • Electroworld • Fuji-YKL • Mobile 1 • Nokia • Octagon • Silicon Valley • The Computer Authority (TCA) • Villman

FURNITURE & KITCHEN ACCESSORIES
Ambiance One • Blims • Home Options • Home Plus • Tefal

OTHERS
Casio • Lorenzo Jewelry • Manila Imperial Motor Sales • Naomi Jewelry • Sportshouse • Timex (Watch N See)

GIFTS AND NOVELTIES (STORE LEVEL ONLY)
Gift Gate (Glorietta 2) • Seyue (Glorietta 2) • Swatch (Glorietta 4) • Sanrio Photo Gallery (Glorietta 2)

1 APPLIANCES, COMPUTERS, GADGETS, FURNITURE AND MORE!
2 MORE CHANCES TO WIN Make it Happen 2mad about 'email!
See flyer for details.
Make It Happen Promo is until May 15, 2006 Per DTI-NCR Permit No 8503, Series of 2005.
2Mad about 'email Promo is until March 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 4089, Series of 2005
3 INCREASE YOUR BUYING POWER UP TO 3X**
PLUS FREEBIES!
A BPI CARD EXCLUSIVE S.I.P. Special Installment Plan
* On selected items and terms.
** Your SIP Credit limit increased up to 3x your Regular Credit Limit. Your maximum purchase will depend on the number of years you have been a BPI Cardholder. To know your promotional SIP limit call ExpressPhone 89-100.
VillMan
AYALA CENTER
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS A tradition of leadership
For inquiries, call BPI ExpressPhone 89-100 www.bpiexpressonline.com
See flyer for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. A1-220 and 1531, Series of 2006



WHAT'S Betty BOX

SC clear on 'people's initiative': Needs enabling law

From page A1

number in the [1997] decision, that dissenting number still includes two current justices, including the chief justice... So maybe he (Abalos) feels there is a possibility that this ruling can be overruled. But as of now, this is still the standing jurisprudence on the matter," she said.

As for Puno, Guerra quoted him as saying that the gathering of signatures was "part of the freedom of expression of the citizenry."

Fair warning

Senate President Franklin Drilon told reporters that Comelec registrars risked being cited for contempt by the high court if they insisted on validating the signatures.

Drilon stressed that the tribunal's March 1997 ruling on the lack of enabling law to support such an initiative to amend the Charter should serve as "fair warning not only to the [Comelec] but [also] to all election registrars who will verify the signatures."

Without an enabling law for such an exercise, the validation of signatures has "no legal basis" and constitutes a "contemptuous defiance" of the high court, Drilon said, adding:

"Abalos should take heed of this decision of the Supreme Court and direct his regional directors ... not to proceed with certification of the signatures."

Meanwhile, Comelec Commissioner Romeo Brawner backtracked on his earlier statement that the poll body was barred from entertaining a petition for people's initiative in the absence of an enabling law.

"When that [petition] is filed, we will deliberate on the issue and resolve it. Mind you, I'm not the only one; it's a collegiate body...," he told reporters after being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

This was a complete departure from the remarks Brawner made before the commission on Tuesday, where he said: "As soon as a petition is filed, we have no recourse but to dismiss the petition."

Brawner said yesterday that the media had "quoted me out of context and [made] it appear that I am an enemy of people's initiative."

"That is far from the truth," he said, stressing that he was merely echoing the high court's ruling that the Comelec was permanently enjoined from entertaining any petition.

AYOKO ng PIG!
(People's Initiative ni Gloria)
AKBAYAN
NO TO PIG!
(People's Initiative ni Gloria)
AKBAYAN
NO TO PIG!
(People's Initiative ni Gloria)
AKBAYAN
ni Gloria)
AKBAYAN

"PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE NI GLORIA" or PIG masks are worn by members of the militant group Akbayan at a protest rally at the UP Diliman's Oblation to condemn the signature drive for Charter change. According to Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros, the efforts to change the Constitution reek of desperation and sinister motives. JOAN BONDOC

Brawner also did not rule out the possibility that the tribunal might reverse itself if the same issue was brought before it.

Senate resolution

Senators again served notice that they would vigorously oppose the conduct of a people's initiative because of legal obstacles.

Twenty-one senators have adopted a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the signature campaign to introduce changes in the Constitution through barangay assemblies initiated by the Department of Interior and Local Government was illegal.

Those who signed the resolution were Drilon, Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senators Joker Arroyo, Rodolfo Biazon, Pia Cayetano.

Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Jinggoy Estrada, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Juan Ponce Enrile, Richard Gordon, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sergio Osmeña III, Ralph Recto, Ramon Revilla Jr., Manuel Roxas II and Manuel Villar Jr.

Senators Edgardo Angara, who had argued that a people's initiative reflected a working democracy, and Manuel "Lito" Lapid, a staunch administration ally, did not sign the resolution.

At press time, no copy of the resolution had been released to the media, but senators confirmed that 21 of them had signed it.

"We are not against any Charter change per se, but it should be done in a manner that is not contrary to law and the Constitution," Pangilinan said.

Immovable object

"This only shows that the Senate is an immovable object that can't be moved an inch from its attempt to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law," Pimentel said.

The senators' position is that the people's initiative is illegal because there is no enabling law to cover it, as pointed out by the Supreme Court in March 1997.

But Drilon and Pangilinan did not discount concurring with any bill providing for an enabling law for a people's initiative if coursed through the proper channels.

"I will support any bill emanating from either the House or the Senate which would implement this constitutional provision on the people's initiative," Drilon said.

"If it is meant to ensure that the genuine voice of the people, the common folk, is heard, yes," Pangilinan said.

But Pimentel declared that he would not concur with such a bill: "Not at this point while [President Macapagal-Arroyo] is there..."

'Stare decisis'

Senator Santiago said that under the legal doctrine of "stare decisis," the high court should follow and uphold its decision in Santiago vs Comelec because "the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same."

"In 1997, there was no law providing for the procedure to change the Charter by means of a people's initiative. Up to now, there is no such law," she said in a statement.

"Therefore, since the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same, then under the 'stare decisis' doctrine, the Supreme Court is obliged to follow the ruling in Santiago vs Comelec," she said.

Santiago was the main petitioner in the case, successfully arguing that the tribunal should junk a petition to amend the 1987 Constitution through a people's initiative during the administration of President Fidel Ramos.

"I am on medical leave because of a heart disease, but I have grown even more heartsick by news that certain administration officials will try to convince the Supreme Court to overrule the decision in the 1997 Chacha people's initiative called Santiago vs Comelec," the senator said.

She added: "In that case, I was not only the main petitioner, but I also orally argued the case in the Supreme Court. It was a hard-won victory, because I was arguing with the man who cheated me of the 1992 presidency, Fidel Ramos.

"Not content with stealing the elections, Ramos wanted to run for a second term through a people's initiative that he obviously planned to manipulate. Fortunately, a sober Supreme Court decided to stand up to the President."

Referendum

At a press conference, Abalos indicated that barring legal obstacles, the referendum for the approval of Charter change via a people's initiative may take place in July.

Abalos said it would take the Comelec 15-30 days to finish verifying the signatures.

"The Comelec can approve the petition in a short time. It's the verification that would take a longer time to complete," he told reporters.

Following the provisions of RA 6735, the poll body has 30 days to determine if the petition is sufficient. Once it is approved, the Comelec has to set the referendum not earlier than 45 days or not later than 90 days.

If it takes the Comelec a month to verify and another month to decide on the petition's sufficiency, the referendum may be held in the middle of July, based on the calculation of the INQUIRER.

Abalos' timetable discounts the possibility of any person or group questioning the initiative before the Supreme Court.

"[But] I'm sure somebody will file a case. So it would all depend on how long the Supreme Court will act on the case." he said.

Brawner said there was no contradiction between his and Abalos' positions on the people's initiative. He said the Comelec could not entertain any initiative petition but the body could do the verification before it was filed, as Abalos had maintained.

The INQUIRER asked Abalos if the decision to allow the verification of signatures—which, he said earlier, was reached during a meeting between the Comelec's law department and the regional directors—had the backing of the other commissioners.

"That is the position of the Comelec," he said.

Pressed if the commission en banc had discussed the matter or had come to a formal decision on it, he said: "It's not needed." *Reports from Armand N. Nocum, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza, Jerome Aning, Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño*

'Signature to surpass 5.6 million'

THE UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES of the Philippines (Ulap) said its campaign might just come up with 10-12 million signatures in view of a Pulse Asia survey showing that the number of Filipinos who believed in Charter change had risen to 43 percent.

Bohol Gov. and Ulap president Erico Aumentado said the people's initiative could easily breach the constitutional requirement of 5.6 million signatories nationwide.

Rice rations

He denied allegations that money and rice rations had changed hands to produce the signatures.

"No money was involved in the signature gathering. The opposition should not compare this true manifestation of the people's will to their noisy rallies attended by paid participants," Aumentado said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said that while he wanted to look into the alleged involvement of DILG personnel and barangay officials in illegal activities connected with the people's initiative, he had yet to receive a single complaint.

"They have to show proof. There is not even a single complaint filed against any DILG official. They can't even identify one DILG official that might have been involved in the alleged bribery for signatures. How can we initiate an investigation?" he said.

Gov't money

At the conclusion of the commencement exercises at the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, Puno also told reporters that government funds were not being used in the signature drive.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also dismissed allegations that government money was being used to finance the Charter change bid.

"There are private groups like Sigaw ng Bayan. I believe they are working hard and they have their own funding," he said.

JDV: Con-Ass takes back seat

IN THE HOUSE, THE CONSTITUENT assembly (Con-Ass) espoused by Speaker Jose de Venecia will have to take a back seat while the local government units pursue a people's initiative to amend the Charter.

In what De Venecia described as a "historic move," the political parties comprising the majority coalition in the House yesterday decided to give high priority to the signature drive.

He told the INQUIRER that the race to get 12 percent of the number of registered voters to introduce a direct amendment to the Charter would have to be prioritized for now although it "speaks of only one subject matter—the shift from a bicameral-presidential system to the unicameral-parliamentary system."

Consequently, the Speaker dropped the "eight core strategic amendments" contained in the draft constitution earlier prepared by the House committee on constitutional amendments.

The package of amendments includes reforms in the political structure and the lifting of economic restrictions.

But Representatives Mauricio Domogan (Lakas, Baguio City) and Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur), vice chairs of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said it would be wise for local executives to ask the Supreme Court to clarify its March 1997 ruling.

House Majority leader Prospero Nograles, for his part, laughed at the supposed 50 lawmakers whom Minority Leader Francis Escudero claimed on Tuesday to have signified willingness to oppose the proposed Con-Ass.

"*Marupok* (fragile)," said Nograles, pointing out that 17 of the 50 would soon jump to the other camp.

He called on the opposition to look at the supposed reality on the ground, saying: "You can see the signatures, not the power play at the grass-roots level."

No job crisis; Filipinos just choosy—Favila

From page A1

He said he based his observation on his conversations with a number of headhunters and corporations looking for workers.

"I don't think people would complain of unemployment if they'd just get the jobs that are available for now," Favila said.

The Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN) said on Tuesday that if the number of unemployed (2.8 million), underemployed (6.9 million) and those not looking for jobs (1.1 million) were combined, there would be 10.8 million out of the 36 million workforce that would need jobs.

"Clearly, the government faces a jobs deficit of crisis proportions," said Clarence Pascual, a senior researcher at LEARN.

Lack of desire

But Favila said the unemployment problem was more of the lack of desire to work rather than the availability of jobs.

"Some Filipinos have a tendency to aspire to be the vice president immediately upon hiring or they want to be able to pick the time and place of work. Those who can't get what they want choose to just wait till their ideal job falls on their lap," Favila said.

He cited the experience of the Korean shipbuilder Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction at a recent job fair.

The company needs a minimum of 7,000 workers in line with its plan to build 16 ships at its $721-million shipbuilding facility on the Redondo Peninsula.

Favila said Hanjin found many qualified engineers, welders, pipe fitters, foremen, crane operators and agriculturists, but most of them balked at the prospect of relocating to Subic.

Graveyard shift

Favila said the Filipinos' fussiness was evident in the call center business as most applicants backed out after learning that they would have to start from the graveyard shift.

"Call centers offer a minimum of P15,000 a month and yet they refuse to take the jobs. This is why some call center operators are now going beyond college graduates and going after second- and third-tier students to fill up their manpower requirements," the trade secretary said.

More part-time jobs

The National Statistics Office's Labor Force Survey in January found that the fishing sector lost 5,000 jobs last year; mining 9,000; manufacturing 18,000; health and social work 32,000, and construction, 73,000.

But part-time jobs increased by 651,000, which accounted for the bulk of new jobs. The number of unpaid family workers increased by 389,000 or 53 percent of the net job creation, while the number of own-account or self-employed workers rose by 263,000, according to the NSO.

Rene Ofreneo, director of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of the Philippines, said the data showed that employment in the formal sector was shrinking and employment in the informal sector of the labor market was growing.

The numbers "indicate employment degradation—higher status jobs being lost and replaced by low paying ones—and migration to subsistence employment," said the Philippine Business Leaders Forum.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has promised to create 1.5 million jobs a year until 2010 to bring down the unemployment rate. But the jobs created last year fell short of the 1.5 million jobs.

Ms Arroyo has been criticized for her failure to translate the benefits of a strong peso, robust stock market and low interest rates into more jobs and lower cost of goods and services.

Red leaders urge NPA to expand use of land mines ...

From page A1

60 initial members, consisting of the remnant fighters of the old CPP and university-based radicals. They were armed with nine automatic rifles and 26 single-shot rifles and handguns.

Today, the NPA claims to be operating in more than 100 guerrilla fronts across the country.

Terrorists

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration said it would not be cowed by NPA threats.

"The government will continue to defend its citizens against the godless terrorists who use their arms to exact taxes and threaten legitimate business and private citizens into kowtowing to their diabolical objective to seize power through violent means," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Malacañang used to be careful in calling the NPA terrorists in order to save the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, umbrella organization for various leftist organizations.

The CPP, NPA and NDF have protested their inclusion in the list of terrorist organizations by the US government and the European Union that dried up their access to international funds.

Uncovering left/right alliance

But after uncovering a supposed alliance between the communists and rebel soldiers, Malacañang has apparently taken off its gloves in dealing with what it called the historical enemies of the state.

Bunye said the public had been fully supportive of the efforts of the military and police to flush out the NPA in the countryside.

JORGE MADLOS: He talked to a military officer this month. PDI PHOTO

A rebel spokesperson said guerrillas had maintained informal contacts with disgruntled military officers more than a month after Ms Arroyo quashed an alleged plot by leftist and rightist groups to oust her.

Junior military officers on the ground as well as "some higher level" officers were in "informal discussions" with rebel leaders, said Jorge Madlos, also known as Ka Oris, an NDF spokesperson in Mindanao.

Madlos said the last time he spoke with a military officer was this month.

"We are just exchanging views. We have convergent aims of toppling the Arroyo [administration]," Madlos said by telephone from his mountain hideout in Mindanao.

He said there had been no offers of defection from the soldiers, but stressed the movement was "prepared to accept them individually."

Valid complaints

"They have valid complaints and we are happy that they realize this current government is not for the people," Madlos said.

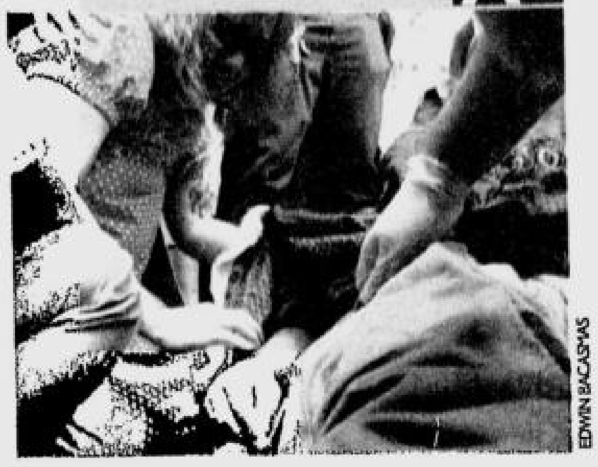
On Feb. 24, Ms Arroyo declared a weeklong state of national emergency in a bid to stop a "cabal" of communist rebels, rogue soldiers, opposition politicians and businessmen from ousting her.

More than 20 officers and men have been detained and face court-martial, while 16 opposition figures, including six leftist legislators, have been charged with rebellion.

Shortly after the alleged coup was aborted, Ms Arroyo launched meetings with officers on the ground to quell restiveness. She also warned them that any future attempts would be crushed.

The military top brass also said that the chain of command was intact, even as it said earlier that they were mopping up "residual threats" to Ms Arroyo. *Reports from AFP, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Police officer in bulletproof car shot dead



EDWIN BACASMAS

THE WIDOW of Chief Insp. Renato Marasigan weeps over his lifeless body after the ambush that happened in broad daylight at a busy Pasig City street.

From page A1

police service for Marasigan, deputy chief of the Intelligence and Investigation Division of the Philippine National Police Internal Affairs Service. He left behind seven children.

Marasigan, who was promoted chief inspector recently, acted as spokesperson for the IAS panel that investigated the widely publicized police operation at Ortigas Center last Nov. 7 in which three suspected car thieves were killed.

Relatives of the slain men—Anthony Dulay, Francis Xavier Manzano and Anton Guillermo Cu-Unjing—said the operation of the Traffic Management Group was an overkill.

Motives

"There are many possibilities ... the number one is, *mahilig siyang makialam* (he loves to meddle), and he is very vocal. There are many [motives] I am considering, but I am still deciphering it. After this, I would piece my theory together," said Marasigan's distraught wife Venus.

"My husband was very meticulous. When he sees something wrong in the barangay, the police, he would be very vocal about it. I've told him to stop meddling with others, that we have a good life and we don't need politics, because he might just be killed for no reason," she said.

For investigators, the daring ambush was still a puzzle.

"We are still establishing the motive. But it was planned because there were four people posted on all corners here. Then they just walked away and took a jeep toward Pateros," said Pasig police chief, Senior Supt. Romeo Abaring.

Abaring said 11 slugs likely from .45 cal. pistols had been found in the ambush site. Marasigan's wife said the Pajero was bulletproof for shots from .38 cal. and 9-mm pistols. "As far as I know, those would not pierce either window. But a .45 cal, I'm not sure," she said.

Communists involved?

The Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, theorized that communist rebels might be responsible.

The shooting coincided with the 37th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines' armed wing, the New People's Army.

"The NPA does not choose its enemies. Everyone in the government is their enemy, and this was their target of opportunity ... and just by the style of the shooting ... that he was ambushed," Alejandrino told reporters.

Marasigan's wife however thought such was unlikely.

"That's only if he abused the NPA ... But you see my husband helps the masses. I know that my husband does not abuse common people. He only fights big people, not the small ones," Marasigan said.

Gunmen did not hide faces

Quoting witnesses, Macalintal told the INQUIRER that the four gunmen did not bother to hide their faces. Police later released an artist's sketch of two of the gunmen based on witnesses' accounts.

Abaring said both gunmen were around 30 years old, between 5'4" and 5'5" tall and were of medium build. One wore his hair long, while another had curly hair.

The Pasig police has launched a manhunt to pursue the gunmen.

Marasigan's wife said she and her husband had been extra cautious in the past few days, as she noticed that they were being tailed by suspicious men.

Cowardly act

"The other night, when we were on our way home, I noticed that men on board a parked vehicle followed us. I told my husband that 'daddy, the car we passed by followed us,' but he said he didn't notice. I just told him that next time, he should not take the same route, because he could be ambushed easily," said Marasigan's wife.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao condemned the slaying as a "cowardly act" and ordered the Pasig police to go after the killers.

Colleagues expressed shock and disbelief. One officer said the ambush might have something to do with the cases that he was handling.

"He was handling many high-profile cases, and many of the cases were highly confidential," said Willard Grageda, chief of the administrative and financial division of IAS, one of the investigative arms of the Philippine National Police.

'Very religious'

The IAS, which maintains offices nationwide, investigates charges against policemen. It directly reports to Lomibao's office.

Colleagues knew the slain cop to be "very religious," and his family, well-to-do, according to Grageda. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Send resumés instantly

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market ONLINE

DAAN-DAANG LIBO LINGGU-LINGGO!
P1 MILLION SA GRAND DRAW!
minola
SARAP MANALO
SARAP MINOLA
TXT MIN TO 2966 FOR MORE INFO

MECHANICS:

1. To join, buy any pack/size of Minola Cooking Oil or Margarine. All Minola products have unique alphanumeric promo codes printed on the labels or stickers, which the consumer has to text to earn entries.

2. Register via text using this format: MIN REG name/age/gender/address. A reply will then be sent to inform the texter of successful registration. The registration info of a participant will be locked to the cellphone number he/she used.

SAMPLE REGISTRATION: MIN REG Sheila Reyes/35/F/55 Dumaguete St., Sta Ana, Manila

3. Text in the unique promo code, plus a 2-number combination from numbers 1 to 99.

FORMAT:
MIN <promo code> <1st number>/<2nd number>
(The 1st number and 2nd number can be of any 1 or 2 digit number combination)

SAMPLE ENTRY/TEXT:
MIN MNLA12345678 4/98

4. A participant can only send one promo code once.

5. By adding the 2-number combination to every promo code, a participant can double his prize money for the weekly draws.

6. There will be 16 weekly draws. Every week, one (1) winner of ₱100,000.00 will be drawn.

7. There is one pre-selected number combination for each of the 16 weekly draws.

8. In the event that the drawn winner for each of the weekly draw has texted the pre-selected winning 2-number combination for that draw, participant will not only get the weekly prize of ₱100,000.00 but also gets a bonus of ₱100,000 for a total prize money of ₱200,000.

9. All messages must be sent to 2966. Each text message costs ₱2.50 for Smart and Globe and ₱2.00 for Sun.

10. One can send in as many entries as he/she wants, using the same number combination BUT with different Minola promo codes.

11. New entries must be sent every week to qualify for each weekly draw. All entries for each completed weekly draw will no longer be valid for the next weekly draw, or for any of the coming weekly draws.

12. All non-winning entries for the weekly draws are automatically qualified for the Grand Draw.

13. There are sixteen (16) weekly draws and one (1) Grand Draw.

14. All winners for the weekly draws and Grand Draw will be notified via registered mail and phone call. Verified winners will be published.

15. Winners should present the following to be able to get their prizes: Valid ID, SIM card used, proof of purchase and Letter of Notification.

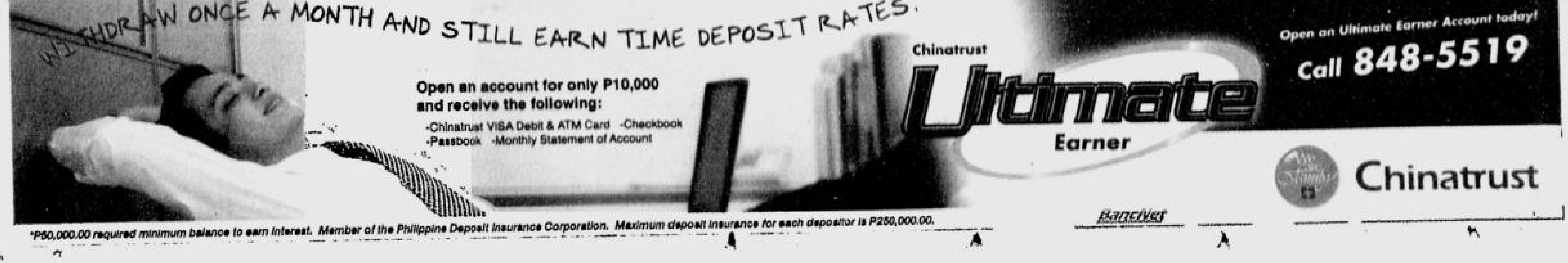
16. Prizes shall be forfeited in favor of CIIF Oil Milling Corporation, if potential winners fail to present the Minola proof of purchase with the winning code and proper identification within 15 days.

PERIOD COVERED	DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES	DRAWING OF WEEKLY WINNERS	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS
(12:01am - 12:00 mn)	(12:00mn) every SUNDAY	with BFAD every TUESDAY	every SATURDAY
Mar 06 - Mar 26	March 26	March 28 (1st Weekly Draw)	April 08, 2006
Mar 27 - Apr 02	April 02	April 04 (2nd Weekly Draw)	April 15, 2006
Apr 03 - 09	April 09	April 11 (3rd Weekly Draw)	April 22, 2006
Apr 10 - 16	April 16	April 18 (4th Weekly Draw)	April 29, 2006
Apr 17 - 23	April 23	April 25 (5th Weekly Draw)	May 06, 2006
Apr 24 - 30	April 30	May 02 (6th Weekly Draw)	May 13, 2006
May 01 - 07	May 07	May 09 (7th Weekly Draw)	May 20, 2006
May 08 - 14	May 14	May 16 (8th Weekly Draw)	May 27, 2006
May 15 - 21	May 21	May 23 (9th Weekly Draw)	June 03, 2006
May 22 - 28	May 28	May 30 (10th Weekly Draw)	June 10, 2006
May 29 - Jun 04	June 04	June 06 (11th Weekly Draw)	June 17, 2006
Jun 05 - 11	June 11	June 13 (12th Weekly Draw)	June 24, 2006
Jun 12 - 18	June 18	July 20 (13th Weekly Draw)	July 01, 2006
Jun 19 - 25	June 25	June 27 (14th Weekly Draw)	July 08, 2006
Jun 26 - Jul 02	July 02	July 04 (15th Weekly Draw)	July 15, 2006
Jul 03 - 09	July 09	July 11 (16th Weekly Draw)	July 22, 2006
Jul 10 - Aug 06	August 08 (Deadline of entries. Tuesday)	August 11, 2006 (GRAND DRAW - FRIDAY)	August 19, 2006

17. All prizes are tax-free.

18. All employees of CIIF Oil Milling Corporation, Buy N Text Corp., Smart Communications, Inc., Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Sun Cellular, Image Dimensions, MediaForce, Dancerg and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

PROMO PERIOD: March 6 - August 8, 2006
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0015, Series of 2006


WITHDRAW ONCE A MONTH AND STILL EARN TIME DEPOSIT RATES*
Chinatrust Ultimate Earner
Chinatrust
Bancnet

Open an account for only P10,000 and receive the following:
-Chinatrust VISA Debit & ATM Card -Checkbook
-Passbook -Monthly Statement of Account

Open an Ultimate Earner Account today!
Call 848-5519

*P50,000.00 required minimum balance to earn interest. Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor is P250,000.00.

8 Cabinet men given 2 weeks to submit papers to CA

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION on Appointments has given five Cabinet members up to April 11 to submit the documents required for the confirmation of their appointments, warning that failure to do so will be "a ground for the rejection of their ad interim appointments."

The commission, chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, unanimously passed a resolution on March 13 containing the stern warning.

A commission official said the resolution was intended for Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Health Secretary Francisco Duque and Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban.

While Panganiban has to submit only two more clearances, the other four Cabinet members "failed to submit even a single required document," said the official who asked not to be identified.

The Commission on Appointments resolution said that the Cabinet secretaries' non-compliance had prevented the commission's standing committees from starting with the consideration of their ad interim appointments.

During its plenary session on March 15, the Commission on Appointments unanimously approved and agreed to issue a stern warning and call the attention of these Cabinet members to the rules of the commission, particularly Section 24," it added.

Section 24 requires government officials seeking Commission on Appointments confirmation to submit documents like their curriculum vitae, income tax returns, statement of assets for the last four years, and clearances from government agencies like the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Bureau of Investigation,a nd the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The Commission on Appointments official said Edbane and Duque had requested an extension but they would have to submit the required documents by April 11. *Philip C. Tubeza*

To save 'castle,' SVD priests to put on waiter's garb

From page A1

simply, how to ensure a fine-dining experience for the guests.

"To be a priest is to be a servant," Cordero, 45, told the INQUIRER last week.

He said it was actually no big deal because he and his colleagues were accustomed to working in the kitchen and mess hall while still in the seminary.

"Part of our training then was to prepare meals for our fellow seminarians and clean up afterward," Cordero said. "So in essence, we're not new to the job. But of course, a formal dinner with 1,000 guests is different."

Tickets at P1,000

As of last week, only a few of the tickets worth P1,000 each were still available.

Most of the ticket buyers are alumni, former seminarians and their relatives, all convinced that it was high time The Castle was given a facelift.

The P1 million that the dinner organizers are hoping to raise from the event is expected to be a perfect start.

Built in 1933, the Buttenbruch Building is easily the primary structure at the Christ the King Seminary; it holds the collective memory of seminarians, past and present.

Cordero said the building was garrisoned by the Japanese and turned into some sort of a command center during World War II.

He recalled that back in the 1970s when he was a seminarian, there was persistent talk about the fabled Yamashita treasure being buried under the seminary grounds.

Renovation needed

"In fact, there were diggings at that time," he said.

There are 78 seminarians at present, half of whom are staying on the third-floor dormitories at The Castle.

Classrooms occupy the second floor, and offices make up the ground floor.

The massive structure clearly shows the need for renovation.

Rust has claimed the window grills, and the carelessly hung curtains are the color of ash.

The building's old rose paint is pale, if not peeling, alternately evoking misery and nostalgia. The color barely conceals the cracks, although Cordero said he had been told that The Castle remained "structurally sound."

Still, the seminary's managers are not taking any chances, especially since it will celebrate its 75th anniversary in two years, Cordero said.

Much needs to be done to restore the old glory of The Castle.

For Cordero and his peers, it begins by playing good hosts to people who believe in the cause.

THE FIRST CHURCH in the country constructed by German priests and designed like a castle, Christ the King, on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City, badly needs an overhaul and a facelift. JOAN BONDOC

Tarlac restaurant sets up 'wall of fury' for hotheads

From page A1

her, she is treating herself to an unusual form of anger management.

Top 3 targets

At the Isdaan restaurant in this town, Vescara and other patrons work out their stress for P15 a go by hurling plates at the "wall of fury" emblazoned with words such as ex-wife, boss and lover.

"The top three targets are boss/manager; wine, women and gambling; and lastly the loan sharks," said Viola.

Angie Trumpeta, a medical student, made the long journey after a marathon run of exams.

"Something like this would help release all of your stress," she said while flinging plates at the wall.

It is not just customers who benefit. Isdaan's staff enjoy throwing plates at the "Perennially Complaining Customers" sign.

A shout of "Taksiyapo!" (a curse in Kapampangan) usually accompanies the sound of smashing crockery.

Vases and bowls are also available, while the wealthier of the furious patrons can toss an old TV set for P1,300.

Cheaper than yoga

Not only is throwing things at the restaurant much cheaper than yoga lessons or professional therapy, it is a lot more fun.

"Isn't it better to break these plates than your personal stuff at home?" Vescara said with a smile.

Manila residents fleeing the congested capital flock to the restaurant on weekends before heading to nearby beaches or into the mountains with much less emotional baggage.

Arnold Viola, the manager of Isdaan, said it was not unusual for husbands and wives to target each other on the wall before returning to the restaurant to enjoy a romantic meal.

An Elvis impersonator who entertains the patrons, Jerwin Cedillo, said it was not always easy dealing with angry people but they usually left Isdaan in a calmer state of mind.

"To most people who have pent-up emotions, this wall of fury is the best way to let go of all your anger," he said. *Reuters*

EXTENDED up to APRIL 21, 2006

Civil Service Commission

2006 Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees

The Search is open to career service and non-career service officials and employees of the government.

CATEGORIES OF AWARD

A. Awards for Outstanding Work Performance

Presidential or *Lingkod Bayan* Award conferred on an individual or group of individuals for exceptional or extraordinary contributions resulting from an idea or performance that had nationwide impact on public interest, security and patrimony. The contribution may be a suggestion, innovation, invention or superior accomplishment.

Civil Service Commission or *Pagasa* Award conferred on an individual or group of individuals for outstanding contribution/s resulting from an idea or performance that directly benefit more than one department of the government though not of such extraordinary or exceptional degree to merit the *Lingkod Bayan* Award.

B. Award for Exemplary Conduct and Ethical Behavior

Outstanding Public Officials and Employees Award or the *Dangal ng Bayan* Award conferred on an individual for performance of extraordinary act or public service and consistent demonstration of exemplary ethical behavior on the basis of his/her observance of one or more of the eight (8) norms of behavior provided under Republic Act No. 6713: Commitment to Public Interest, Professionalism, Justness and Sincerity, Political Neutrality, Responsiveness to the Public, Nationalism and Patriotism, Commitment to Democracy, and Simple Living.

QUALIFICATIONS OF NOMINEE

Nominated officials and employees, either in individual or group category, must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be in the government service at the time of nomination. Posthumous nominations can be made for officials and employees who died while in the government service and within the year prior to the nomination;
2. Have been rated at least Very Satisfactory or its equivalent for the last two (2) consecutive performance rating periods prior to their nomination; and
3. Have not been found guilty of any administrative or criminal offense involving moral turpitude and have no pending administrative or criminal case at the time of the nomination.

WHO MAY NOMINATE

Any individual or organization with extensive knowledge of the performance and behavior of the official, employee or group/team may nominate for the Honor Awards.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for all the three (3) awards must be submitted, duly accomplished and endorsed by the Agency Head, to any Civil Service Commission Regional Office or Field Office on or before April 21.

For more details, please visit CSC's Regional or Field Offices nearest you. You may also call the Honor Awards Program (HAP) Secretariat at ☎ (02) 932-0381, 931-7993 and 932-0111 or e-mail at pis@csc.gov.ph and mmou@csc.gov.ph.

Correction

IN THE MARCH 20 ISSUE, a table accompanying a story on Page B2-1—"Where parents' money will go this June"—misstated the annual cost of tuition, miscellaneous fees and books for fourth year high school students of Notre Dame School in Caloocan City. The correct figure is P45,570.12—not P52,000 plus.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, March 30, 2006
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: John 5:31-47

Jesus said to the Jews, "If I bore witness to myself, my testimony would be worthless. But Another One is bearing witness to me and I know that his testimony is true when he bears witness to me. John also bore witness to the truth when you sent messengers to him, but I do not seek such human testimony; I recall this for you, so that you may be saved.

"John was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were willing to enjoy his light. But I have greater evidence than that of John—the works which the Father entrusted to me to carry out. The very works I do bear witness: the Father has sent me. Thus he who bears witness to me is the Father who sent me. Then, as long as you do not believe his messenger, his word is not in you.

"You search in the Scriptures thinking that in them you will find life; yet Scripture bears witness to me. But you refuse to come to me, that you may live. I am not seeking human praise; but I have known that love of God is not within you, for I have come in my Father's name and you do not accept me. If another comes in his own name, you will accept him. As long as you seek praise from one another instead of seeking the glory coming from the only God, how can you believe?

"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father. Moses himself in whom you placed your hope, accuses you. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

Commentary

Moses is sent to the depraved people, no longer bound to God at all because of their faithlessness, violence, and worship of other gods. But Moses pleads for them, begging God to remember all that He has done for them in the past and not letting all that go to waste because of the peoples' stubbornness. Moses cares so much for this violent people and God relents. Jesus too begs and cajoles the people to listen to him, to remember John who was the blazing light for a while, and to look at the testimony of his works of healing, hope, forgiveness, and to search the Scriptures to know who He is. Do we have this Word abiding in us? Can we see the work of God? Jesus does not accuse us before God but pleads on our behalf. But who do we believe? And whose words do we act on?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

11 Magdalo soldiers drop lawyer in court-martial

By Dona Pazzibugan

ELEVEN ARMY SOLDIERS IMPLICATED IN the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny yesterday dropped the lawyer defending them in their court-martial, giving rise to speculations that some of the mutineers may have cut a deal with the military leadership.

The 11 soldiers were not among the 184 enlisted men who were released last May after a plea bargain.

In a letter dated March 28, the 11 Army soldiers told lawyer Roel Pulido they were "fully submitting" themselves to their superiors in order to resolve their case which has been pending for almost three years.

"It is a painful decision for us to release you but we believe that it is the most sensible action now for our best interest," they said as they thanked Pulido for representing them for free.

"We have full confidence in the chain of command [that] all these things will be resolved in the proper forum and under the auspices of our senior officers," they said.

The soldiers tried to explain their decision to Pulido during the resumption of the hearings yesterday, but Pulido said he did not need an explanation.

The hearing, the first in six months, was postponed after prosecutors moved to consolidate the trial of the three groups of accused.

The first group consists of the 29 alleged core leaders, who style themselves as the so-called Magdalo group, who have also been charged with coup d'etat before a Makati court.

The second group consists of 66 officers and 11 soldiers charged with mutiny while the third group consists of eight officers charged with failure to suppress mutiny.

Last October, 13 Army officers led by two of the alleged core leaders, Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, dropped Pulido as counsel after they apologized a second time to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Army Capt. Alvin Ebreo followed suit last February, and was afterward transferred from solitary confinement to the detention facility where the 13 officers were being held.

Pulido would not speculate about a deal for the 11 but it is known that the group 13 which broke away from the core group of accused putschists have not been offered a plea bargain.

Military prosecutor Col. Pedro Davila said the decision to consolidate the trial was made in order to avoid any duplication in the presentation of witnesses.

He said the prosecution was looking at ways to expedite the case as the court itself has noted the "substantial delay."

The last hearing was held last Sept. 26 and the trial so far has not progressed beyond the arraignment stage.

"That's part of due process... There's nothing to be apologetic about," Davila said.

Pulido said his clients were initially against the plan to consolidate the trial. He said the defense and the prosecution would thresh out the issue before the next hearing is set.

Security was very tight yesterday, with at least 200 Military Police [MP] troops deployed to escort the 61 mutineers who attended the hearing.

For the first time, cameras and voice recorders were banned from the courtroom. The number of media people allowed in was limited to 20.

"Say yes to this Portable Hard Cleaner!"
Yes
Wet & Dry Vacuum Cleaner
Made in Italy
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by: CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.
MANILA: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA. Tel. Nos. 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY: 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. Nos. 7490581 • 7493709

HOME OF FINE HARDWOOD FLOORS
ROVI
Choose the wood for your mood

Lamina™ Laminated Wood
- Closest thing to natural wood
- German technology
- Green HDF
- Quick-click system (glueless installation)
- Price starts at a low P495/sqm

Bambú™
- Eco friendly bamboo hardwood flooring
- Available in natural, carbonized or customized colors
- Comes in solid vertical construction
- Price starts at affordable P1,800/sqm

Enduro Palm™
- Coconut wood reinvented
- Comes in single strip horizontal or multi-strip vertical engineered construction or solid wood flooring
- Price starts reasonably at P900/sqm

Rovi Enduro™
- Durable engineered wood flooring made with 6 coats of UV-cured polyurethane from Germany
- Customized stains or colors available.
- Comes in 3" up to 8" width, 3 ply, 5 ply or 7 ply
- Thickness: 10 mm, 12 mm, 15 mm
- Price starts at P1,200/sqm

Rovi Solid Wood
- Imported (Brazilian Walnut, Cupipa, Solomon Rosewood, Teak) and local (Acacia, Red Mahogany)
- Unfinished or finished surface
- Four sides T&G with undergrove
- Available 3" to 8" wide and up to 8' long
- Price starts at P800/sqm

ROVI Multi-Products, Inc.
81 Warehouse Leitz Industrial Complex, Edison Ave.
(P. Leviste Ave.), Km. 14 South Luzon Expressway
Bgy. Sun Valley, Parañaque City
Tel. (632) 823-4330 / 824-4915 / 822-4112
Fax (632) 823-5203 • Mobile (0917) 536-4899
Email: rovimultiproducts@yahoo.com
Visit us at http://www/rovifloors.com

No-frills homecoming for Cardinal Rosales

By Christian V. Esguerra

EXPECT NO FRILLS WHEN THE country's newest cardinal comes home tonight.

True to his character, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales' return from the Vatican will be marked by a simple Mass at the Manila Cathedral at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Rosales, 73, officially became the sixth Filipino to receive the red hat after being inducted to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI last March 24.

The committee organizing the welcome rites prepared no elaborate festivities, according to Peachy Yamsuan, communications director of the archdiocese.

"It will be simple to the bone," she told the INQUIRER. "That's how he would like it to be."

But even Rosales could not help it if scores of well-wishers turn up for the Mass, which will be concelebrated by bishops and priests from the archdiocese and its suffragan dioceses, as well as from Lipa and Malaybalay where he had also served as prelate.

The Mass will be "open to all" but those wanting to come should anticipate a huge crowd, Yamsuan said.

She said up to 2,000 people were expected, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and other government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Two busloads of Rosales' relatives from his home province of Batangas were also expected.

After tomorrow's Mass, there will be two receptions at the nearby Villa Immaculada and Clamshell.

Separate festivities were scheduled in Lipa and Malaybalay next month.

But why are people really excited about the arrival of a new cardinal?

Aside from Manila, Yamsuan said the occasion was particularly special among parishioners in Lipa and Malaybalay where Rosales had spent years as a champion of the poor, the environment, and other important issues confronting the dioceses.

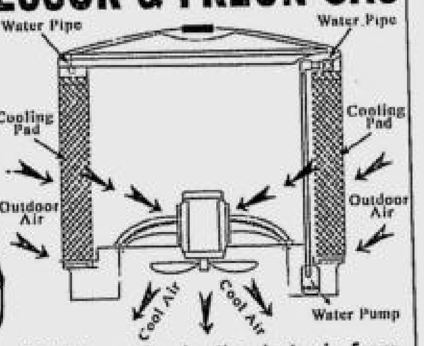
For Filipinos, having a new cardinal brings prestige since cardinals, who are also known as "princes of the Church," serve as advisers to the Pope and choose his successor.

join the growing community
NEW
Soon to dominate the skyline
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER III
Cityland Square, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pio Del Pilar, Makati City
40-storey Office, Commercial & Residential Condominium
Own a unit for as low as ₱9,773/mo.
Amenities: Swimming Pool / Children's Playground / Function Room / Gym / Sauna for men & women / Laundromat space (for lease) / Drying Area / Roof Deck / Viewing Deck / Jogging Deck / 24-hour Association Security
HLURB License to Sell #14617
CITYLAND
Leading Condominium Developer
Presidential Awardee
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards
[illegible]
812-2222 243-6565 818-8888 241-1894
www.cityland.net
investment@cityland.net

Saves about 80% on your aircon bills... use
IWATA EVAPORATIVE AIR-CONDITIONER
WITHOUT COMPRESSOR & FREON GAS

IWATA Evaporative Air Cooler

OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE
1Hp to 10Hp
HIGH & LOW STAND AVAILABLE



IWATA sucks in the hot air from outside & enters the airconditioning unit thru the cooling pads then the air passes thru the water that automatically flows down the wide surface area of the cooling pads like waterfalls and simultaneously evaporation takes place. The strong fan then blows in the cool clean air into the room & increases the volume of oxygen in the area.

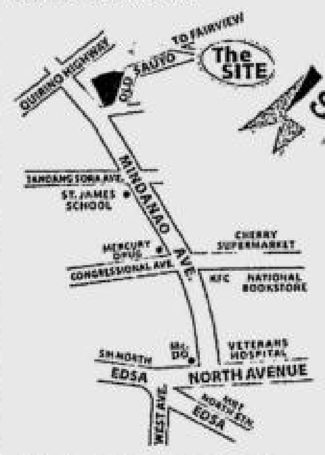
Some installations in different establishments who are now enjoying the cool clean air & big amount of savings on the cost of aircon electricity bills.

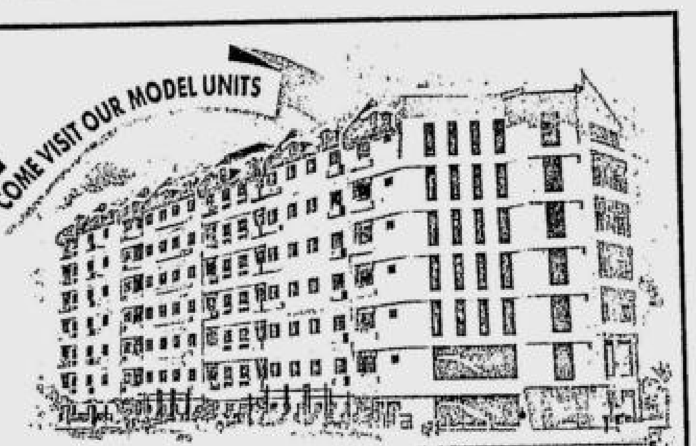
CALL NOW FOR FREE DEMO
BIG savings on electricity bills... about 80% less compared to conventional air-con.

CAR SHOW ROOM
FCTY. & OFFICE BLDG.
CANTEEN & RESTAURANT
HOSPITAL LOBBY
LAUNDRY SHOP
SUPERMARKET

Phils. Authorized Dist. COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
210 Del Monte Ave. Cor. Speaker Perez St., Del Monte Mansion Bldg. Suite 200, Q.C Phils.
Tel No. 412-4317, 414-9890, 411-2395 - 98, 740-3816, 742-8138 - 9, 742-8140 - 42
Fax No. (632) 411-2399 • E-mail colent@pldtdsl.net

FOR ANNOUNCEMENT PURPOSES ONLY
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING





COME VISIT OUR MODEL UNITS

Francesca Royale
Residential Condominium
For Inquiries, please call:
Welcome Realty - 413-3313 / 362-3715 / 09178999395
V.S. Monge Realty - 431-7710 / 961-0781 / 09064340848
N.B.M. Corp. - 374-6731 / 09163583890
OWNER/DEVELOPER:
AL-LA INTEGRATED AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MINDANAO AVENUE, OLD SAUYO ROAD,
BGY. SAUYO, QUEZON CITY
"Erection of steel beams and columns in full swing"

SKYNET TRAVEL
CORPORATION
IATA PTAA PIATA PHILTOA PTTC
G/F & 2/F TSE AND SONS BLDG. 1743 A. MABINI ST. MALATE
Tel. Nos. 400-0509 to 10 • 521-7596 to 98
Fax No.: 526-6364 • 526-6682 • Mobile No.: (0921) 445-1778
Opens Mon-Fri 9am - 6pm Sat 9am - 1:30pm
BRANCH OFFICE: ST.FRANCIS SQUARE
UNIT-K,BASEMENT 1,JULIA VARGAS AVE.,COR.BANK DRIVE,
ORTIGAS CENTER,MANDALUYONG CITY (BACK OF SM MEGAMALL)
Tel # 633-2399 • 633-9976 • 635-6211 • 631-8354
Opens Mon-Thurs 10am - 8pm
Fri-Sat 10am - 9pm Sun 9am - 9pm NAITAS
BOOKING OFFICES: Baguio (074) 446-9834
Cainta 284-2097 • Cavite (046) 417-2707 • Iloilo: (033) 5084151
Legaspi: (052)480-5293 • Marikina 943-4201 • Ozamis: (088) 5211555
Tacloban (053) 325-8254 • Tuguegarao (078) 8460832

HOLYWEEK BLOCKINGS
12-15 APRIL
4D/3N BANGKOK FIRST HOUSE 289 | 4D/3N SINGAPORE SUMMERVIEW 298
12-15/13-16 APRIL
4D/3N HONGKONG FREE & EASY 389 | 4D/3N HONGKONG w/ DISNEYLAND TOUR 449

OUTRIGHT CONFIRMATION VIA CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES APRIL 2 OR 6
$109 5D/4N 4N Shenzhen
$169 5D/4N 4N Shenzhen w/ Hongkong and Disneyland Daytour
Hotels AMBASSADOR OR CENTURY PLAZA (4★)
$199 5D/4N 4N Shanghai
$329 4D/3N 1N Zhuhai+1N Macau+1N Shenzhen w/ Chimelong paradise (Chinese Disneyland)
$399 8D/7N 2N Shenzhen+2N Shanghai+3N Beijing

Hongkong Disneyland Packages
2N HKG COMPULSARY w/Disneyland Daytour 3D/2N 179
2N HKG/1N SZX w/ Disneyland Daytour 4D/3N 189
2N HONGKONG+Disneyland Daytour 3D/2N 203
1N HKG+1N DISNEYLAND 3D/2N 259
WE ALSO OFFER OTHER INT. DESTINATIONS, LCL TOUR PKGS,
PASSPORT, DOCUMENTATION & VISA ASSISTANCE
Rates are subject to change w/o prior notice. All rates are quoted in US dollars unless otherwise indicated.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BPO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA
Mandaluyong City 1501
Website: www.poea.gov.ph
Email: info@poea.gov.ph • Hotlines: 722-1144 • 722-1155

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 02

Series of 2006

TO : ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE NAME HIRING OF FILIPINO HOUSEHOLD WORKERS FOR CYPRUS

Pursuant to existing regulations which provide for the recruitment and documentation of Filipino household workers through an accreditation/registration system and the name hiring of Filipino household workers only in countries where foreign placement agencies do not operate, the name hiring of Filipino household workers bound for Cyprus shall be allowed only for the following employers duly endorsed by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) which has jurisdiction over the worksite:

1. Immediate members of the family of head of state/government;
2. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other senior government officials of the host country;
3. Senior officials of the diplomatic corps and duly recognized international organizations.

A copy of the certificate of competency (COC) of the worker issued by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall be presented to POEA as a requirement for the documentation of household workers, whether name hire or agency-hire.

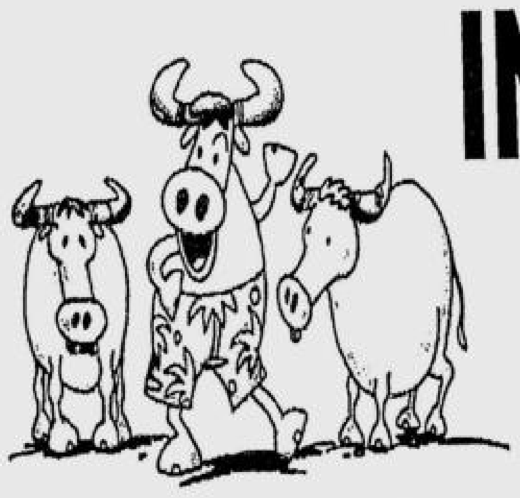
All previous issuances inconsistent with this circular are hereby deemed repealed and superseded.

For strict compliance effective 15 days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

(PDI-March 30, 2006)

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER



Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB Market

Erap: Chavit got ₱1.4B

From page A1

about P4 billion in illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions stashed in secret bank accounts under an alias.

Estrada also faces a perjury charge for allegedly underreporting his assets in 1999.

The 68-year-old Estrada was ousted in a People Power revolution in 2001 after his supporters in the Senate impeachment court refused to accept what had been alleged as evidence against him.

The plunder charges against Estrada carry the maximum penalty of death by lethal injection, but it was more likely that he would be pardoned. President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration has initiated reconciliation talks with Estrada, fearing his legion of impoverished supporters.

Gag order

With media people packing the hearing, the Sandiganbayan banned both sides from talking to reporters about their chances of success, apprehensive that these would whip up tensions among Estrada's supporters.

Associate Justice Teresita de Castro said the three-member court would consider next week, when Estrada will testify again, possibly extending the ban to include media opinion pieces on the trial and commentary from case witnesses.

In his previous testimony on March 22, Estrada claimed he was framed with "trumped-up charges" that led to his downfall during massive street protests.

Answering questions from his lawyers, Estrada accused Singson, his former drinking buddy and main accuser, of stealing state funds before he became President in 1998 and passing the blame on to him.

No cover-up

"I never asked anyone to cover up his (Singson's) unliquidated cash advances," Estrada told the court. "He was trying to pass his liabilities to me when the Commission on Audit began running after him."

Estrada's lawyers produced several documents to show that Singson was facing 11 graft cases for "ghost" projects and unliquidated cash advances.

"From the beginning, he was already accustomed to falsification," Estrada said.

Singson denied the allegations, telling reporters "he (Estrada) is just reading his script."

"They are repeating it as part of their defense to destroy my credibility," he said.

RAFFY LERMA

EVELYN Chan, wife of the provincial COA auditor who was killed in an ambush while probing Singson's alleged multimillion-peso cash advances, shows up at the antigraft court reportedly to lend moral support to Estrada.

Singson noted that these were the same accusations leveled against him during the October 2000 impeachment of Estrada. He said there were no cases pending against him.

Nothing to do with bank notes

Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio asked the court to strike out Estrada's allegations as hearsay, but the judges decided to allow them as part of Estrada's "narration."

Shown a check and bank documents allegedly covering the transfer of the tax kickbacks, Estrada last week denied any knowledge of the papers, telling the court it was the first time he had seen them.

Yesterday, he repeated his position: "I do not recognize these documents and I have nothing to do with these documents."

Also present in the packed courtroom were his two sons—including codefendant Jinggoy Estrada—wife and daughter Jackie.

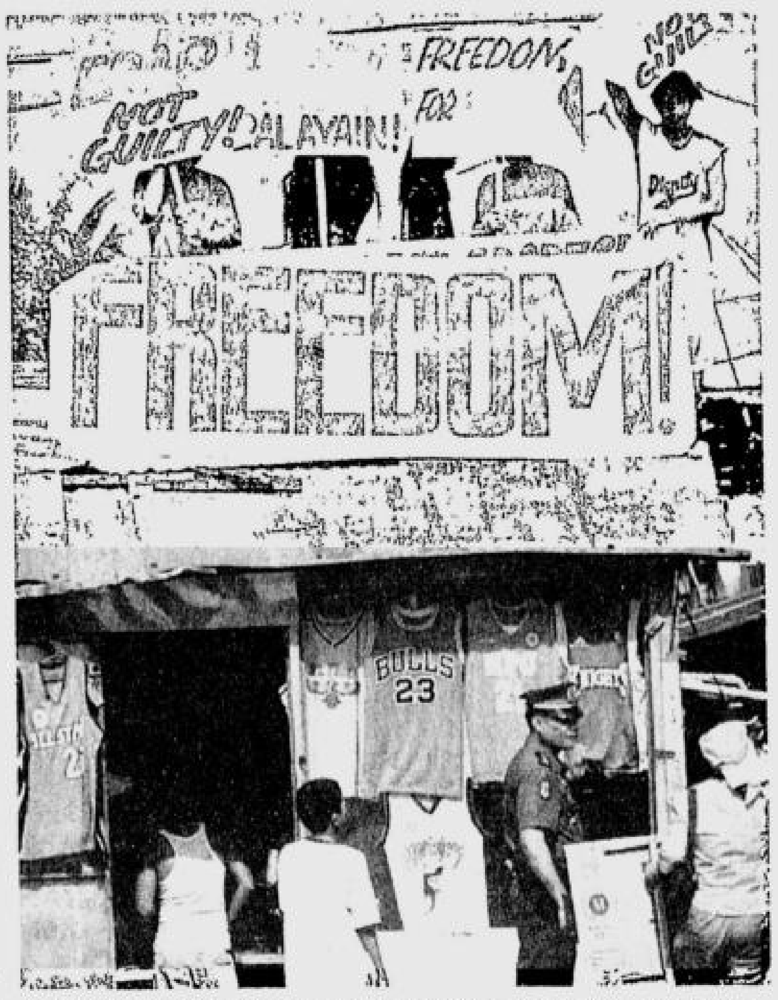
Outside the Sandiganbayan, about 200 pro-Estrada supporters gathered to show support for the ousted leader, still considered a hero by many of the country's poor.

Prosecutor confident

Villa-Ignacio expressed confidence Estrada would be convicted.

"There is nothing that he can do that can controvert the testimonial and documentary evidence that we have presented," he said.

The prosecution rested its case in 2003 after presenting 76 witnesses and more than 1,500 pieces of evidence.

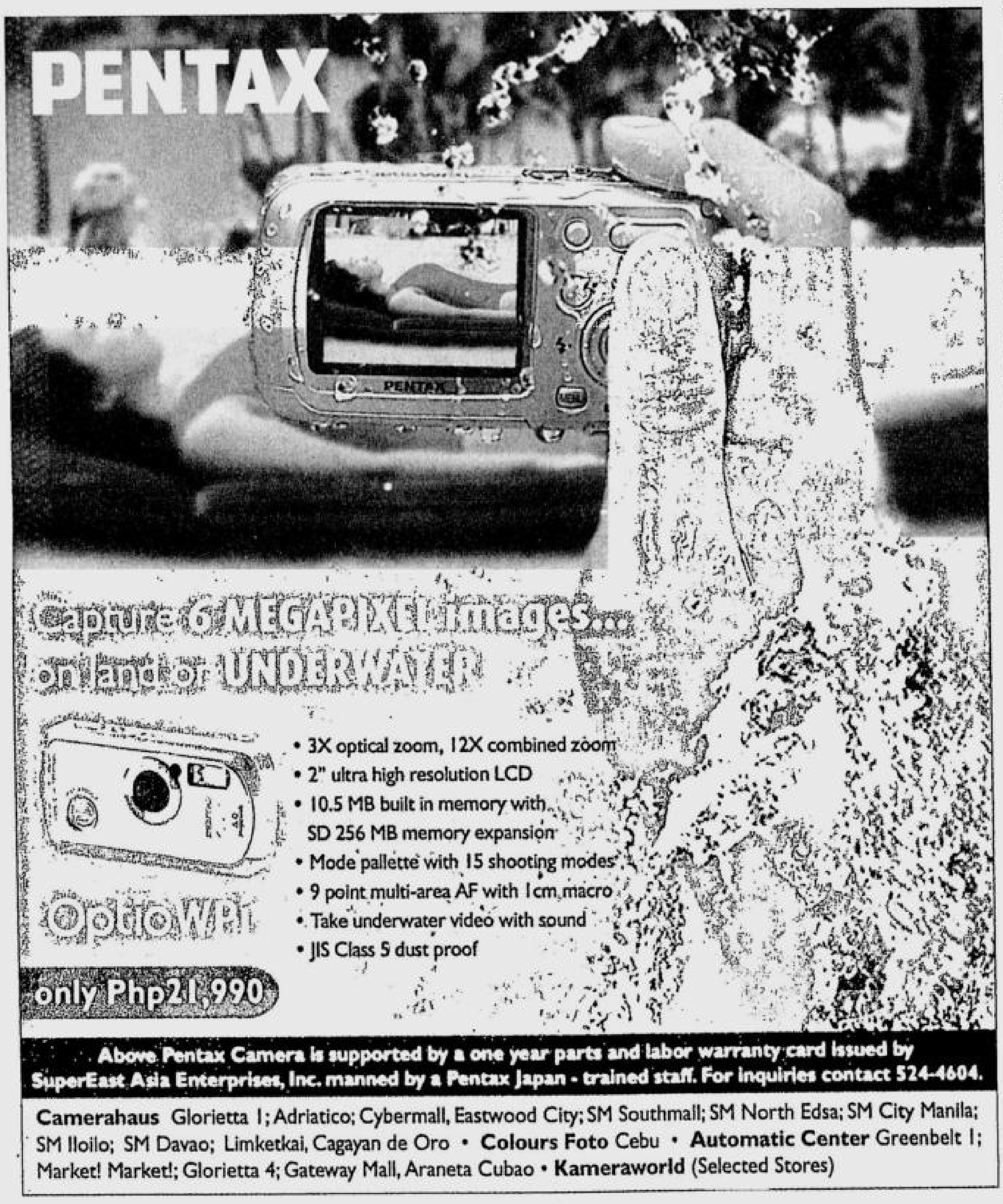


"NOT GUILTY," Estrada supporters outside the court render their verdict. RAFFY LERMA

Another 3 months

Estrada, who has denied any wrongdoing but is detained at his Tanay rest house, is likely to appear before the Sandiganbayan for the next two months because hearings are conducted only once a week.

It will take three more months before the two sides wrap up arguments. *With reports from AP and Reuters*


PENTAX

Capture 6 MEGAPIXEL images... on land or UNDERWATER

- 3X optical zoom, 12X combined zoom
- 2" ultra high resolution LCD
- 10.5 MB built in memory with SD 256 MB memory expansion
- Mode pallette with 15 shooting modes
- 9 point multi-area AF with 1cm macro
- Take underwater video with sound
- JIS Class 5 dust proof

Optio WPi

only Php21,990

Above Pentax Camera is supported by a one year parts and labor warranty card issued by SuperEast Asia Enterprises, Inc. manned by a Pentax Japan - trained staff. For inquiries contact 524-4604.

Camerahaus Glorietta 1; Adriatico; Cybermall, Eastwood City; SM Southmall; SM North Edsa; SM City Manila; SM Iloilo; SM Davao; Limketkai, Cagayan de Oro • **Colours Foto** Cebu • **Automatic Center** Greenbelt 1; Market! Market!; Glorietta 4; Gateway Mall, Araneta Cubao • **Kameraworld** (Selected Stores)

US court may grant bail to Lacson's former aide

From page A1

in jail," Diaz told reporters.

Diaz, however, said Aquino's immigration problems could dissuade the judge from granting him bail.

"The past status hearings on Aquino were all preliminaries wherein the defense requested to be furnished with the prosecution's documents so there would be no surprise during the actual trial," Diaz said.

"From now until October, the prosecution would be gathering additional evidence," Diaz said.

The NBI Interpol chief said court-appointed lawyer Mark Berman and Felix Vinluan, who handled Aquino's immigration case, represented the former police official. Aquino is detained at the Passaic County Jail in New Jersey.

Espionage charges

Espionage charges were filed against Aquino, 39, and FBI analyst Leandro Aragoncillo, 46, late last year for passing classified information to current and former Filipino officials.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada, Senators Panfilo Lacson and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez have confirmed receiving e-mails from either Aquino or Aragoncillo but they said the papers were of dubious intelligence value.

NBI officials said Aquino was arrested in his house in Queens, New York, in early September last year while Aragoncillo was nabbed in his Woodbury, New Jersey home.

Aquino and Aragoncillo were ordered held without bail in a New York federal prison following an initial appearance before US Magistrate Patty Shwartz.

If found guilty of the charges, the accused could face 15 years in prison and $500,000 or more than P25 million in fines.

AQUINO: Not heinous crime

Aragoncillo was also charged with unauthorized use of a government computer, which means an additional sentence of 10 years and a $250,000 fine.

FBI investigation

Diaz said the FBI began investigating and monitoring Aragoncillo after the analyst interceded for Aquino following the former police officer's arrest in March 2005 for overstaying in the United States.

Aquino had posted a $50,000 bail for his violation of US immigration laws.

Aquino and former PNP Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao have been implicated in the November 2000 abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Supt. Glenn Dumlao has tagged Aquino and Mancao in the double murder, along with several other members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), which Lacson headed during the Estrada presidency.

Super Shopping, Super Rewards!

With BDO Shop More MasterCard, you get a FREE SM Advantage Card and enjoy ...

More Rewards Points!
More Installment Values!
More Discounts & Privileges!
More Shopping Pleasure!
at SM

Over ₱2 million in cash & prizes! 2 draws! Lots of winners!
SUPER LOANS, SUPER PRIZES!

Get a chance to be one of the 60 lucky winners!
Activate your BDO Shop More MasterCard within March 1 to December 31, 2006 and you automatically get a raffle number qualifying you for the draw!

Plus, More Savings!
As low as 0.88%* balance transfer rate!
FREE Membership Fee for the first 12 months!
FREE up to 5 Supplementary Cards for 1 year!

Call 631-8000 or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll Free) or visit the Shop More booths or BDO On-site at selected SM Malls.

BDO Credit Cards

17 Chinese poachers win pardon, will be deported

By Leila B. Salaverria

PARDONED BY PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO early this month, 17 fishermen convicted of poaching in Philippine waters were yesterday ordered expelled from the Philippines by the Bureau of Immigration.

The bureau's Board of Commissioners issued the summary deportation order for the 17 fishermen yesterday after Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita informed the bureau about their conditional pardon by Ms Arroyo dated March 10, 2006.

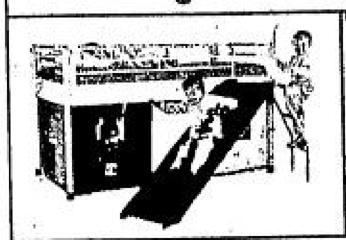
The pardon came 10 months after the fishermen' conviction in May 2005 for violating the Philippines' fisheries code. They were sentenced five to six years in jail by the Puerto Princesa Regional Trial Court.

The Chinese, who were arrested in January 2004 off Balabac, Palawan, were found guilty of fishing in Philippine waters without a permit. Philippine Coast Guard operatives also seized from them 52 green sea and hawks bill turtles, which are protected species.

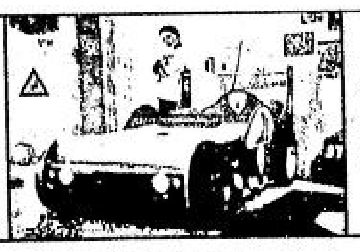
The fishermen's vessel was also seized and forfeited in favor of the government.

Ermita, through a memorandum, directed the bureau to facilitate the Chinese nationals' voluntary deportation, which would be subject to conditions the President imposed in return for pardoning them.

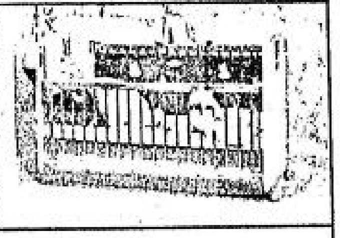
MODERN YOUNG PEOPLE'S FURNITURE



"Coco" complete play house bed
Size: 210 x 196 x 136 cm
Mattress: 90 x 190 cm



"Coco" car bed
Size: 210 x 110 x 94 cm
Mattress: 90 x 190 cm



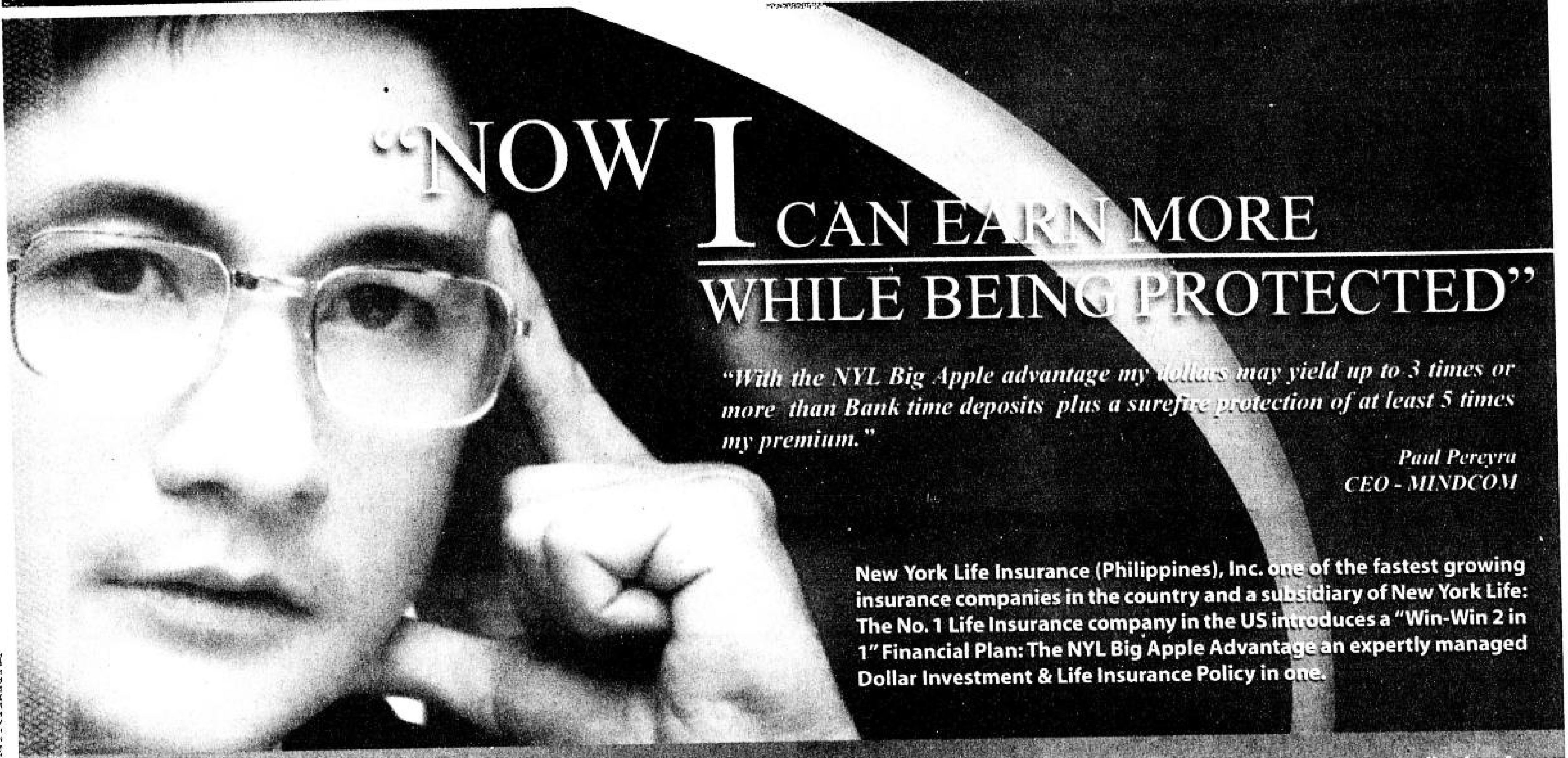
"Bo boo" baby series
Wheeled Bed: 128 x 70 x 94 cm

DEXTERTON

Dexterton Corporation
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Quezon City
Tel: 362-1111, 361-6006 Fax No: 362-0524
email: info@dexterton.com
website: www.dexterton.com

idac®
AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon

Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call:2432610,2414731
Available@MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821


"NOW I CAN EARN MORE WHILE BEING PROTECTED"

"With the NYL Big Apple advantage my dollars may yield up to 3 times or more than Bank time deposits plus a surefire protection of at least 5 times my premium."

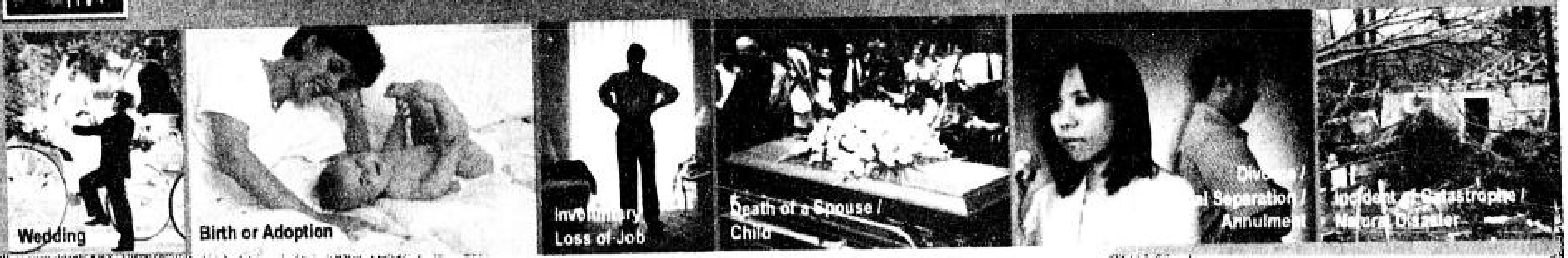
Paul Pereyra
CEO - MINDCOM

New York Life Insurance (Philippines), Inc. one of the fastest growing insurance companies in the country and a subsidiary of New York Life: The No. 1 Life Insurance company in the US introduces a "Win-Win 2 in 1" Financial Plan: The NYL Big Apple Advantage an expertly managed Dollar Investment & Life Insurance Policy in one.

NYL BIG APPLE ADVANTAGE
2 in 1 INVESTMENT & LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

NYL Life Event Rider

"NYL Life Event Rider, a unique feature of our NYL Big Apple Advantage waives the cost of insurance & policy fees for four months as long as they do not occur within six months from the effectivity of the rider. So in cases of marriage, Birth or Adoption, Involuntary Loss of Job, Divorce, Legal Separation and Natural Disasters, you can count on New York Life to help you through tough times. New York Life is the FIRST Company in the Philippines to offer this valuable benefit."


Wedding
Birth or Adoption
Involuntary Loss of Job
Death of a Spouse / Child
Divorce / Legal Separation / Annulment
Incident of Catastrophe / Natural Disaster

The New York Life Big Apple Advantage (Dollar Plan):

○ AFFORDABLE: FOR AS LOW AS $500 A YEAR
○ PROTECTION OF AT LEAST 5 TIMES YOUR REGULAR PREMIUM
○ SUPERIOR FUND PERFORMANCE VIA A LEADING GLOBAL FUND MANAGER
○ *A TAX-FREE LEGACY TO YOUR LOVED ONES

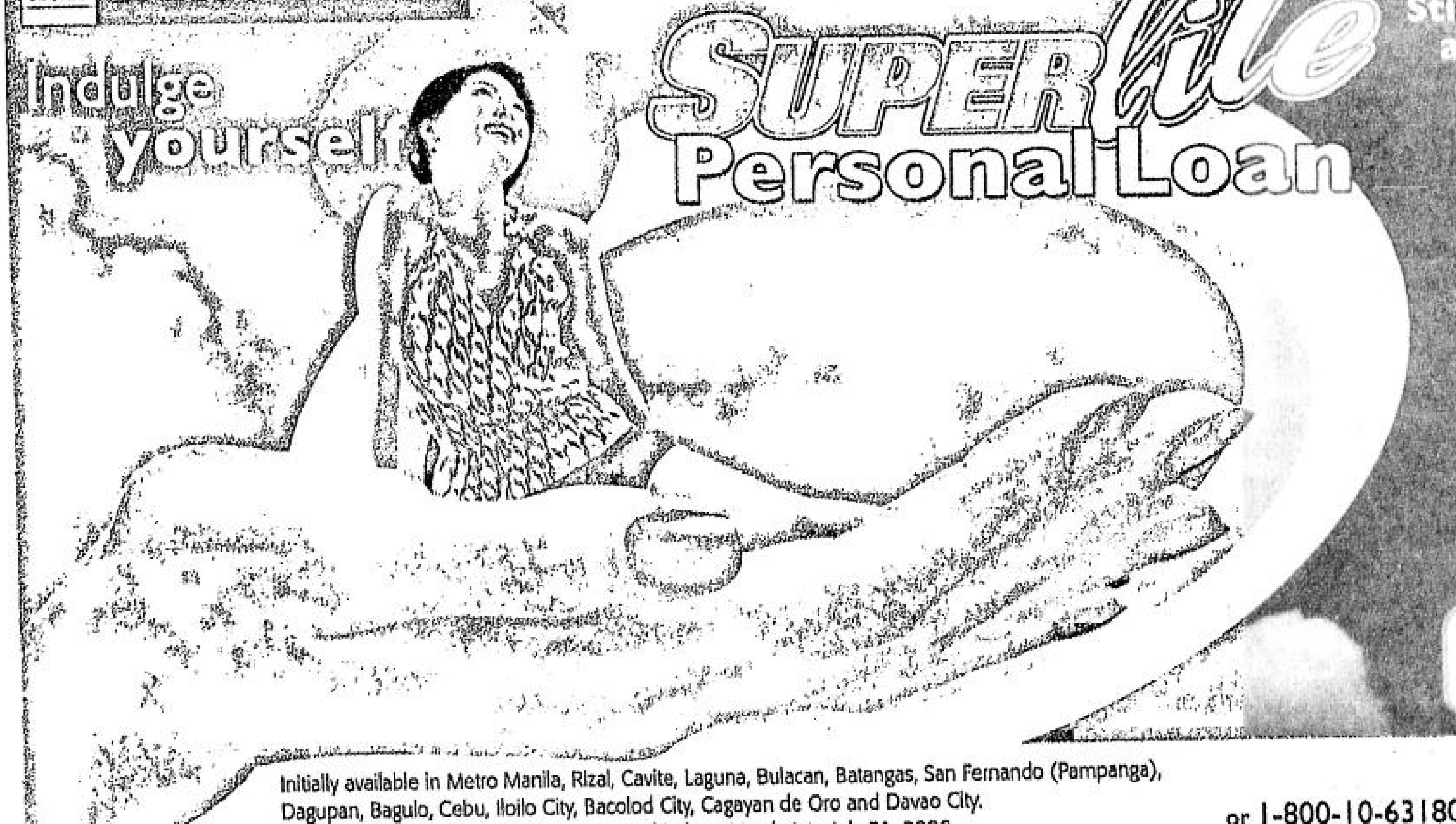
PLUS, PHILIPPINE AIRLINES' MABUHAY MILES MEMBERS MAY EARN GENEROUS MILES PER AVAILMENT OF THE NYL BIG APPLE ADVANTAGE. PROMO RUNS UNTIL 31 AUGUST 2006.

Mabuhay Miles NEW YORK LIFE NYL BIG APPLE ADVANTAGE
The Company You Keep

*For irrevocable beneficiaries

For more details, please contact your New York Life Sales Agent Today or Call 818-HELP (4357)

BDO BANCO DE ORO



SUPERlite Personal Loan

Still at 0.99%*

- FREE Family Accident Insurance up to P300,000 from GENERALI PILIPINAS
- Earn BDO Rewards Points

Over P2 million in cash & prizes! 2 draws! Lots of winners!
SUPER LOANS, SUPER PRIZES!
BDO Auto Loan • BDO Home Loan • Other BDO Products • BDO Credit Cards

Book a SuperLite Personal Loan now and get a chance to be one of the 60 lucky winners!
Promo period: March 1 - December 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0408 Series of 2006

Initially available in Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Batangas, San Fernando (Pampanga), Dagupan, Bagulo, Cebu, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City.
*Terms and conditions apply. Promo period is from March 1 to July 31, 2006.
See fliers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1221 Series of 2006.

Call 631-8000
or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll Free)
or visit any of our BDO or BDO On-site branches.

BDO Personal Loan
www.bancodeoro.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 112

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

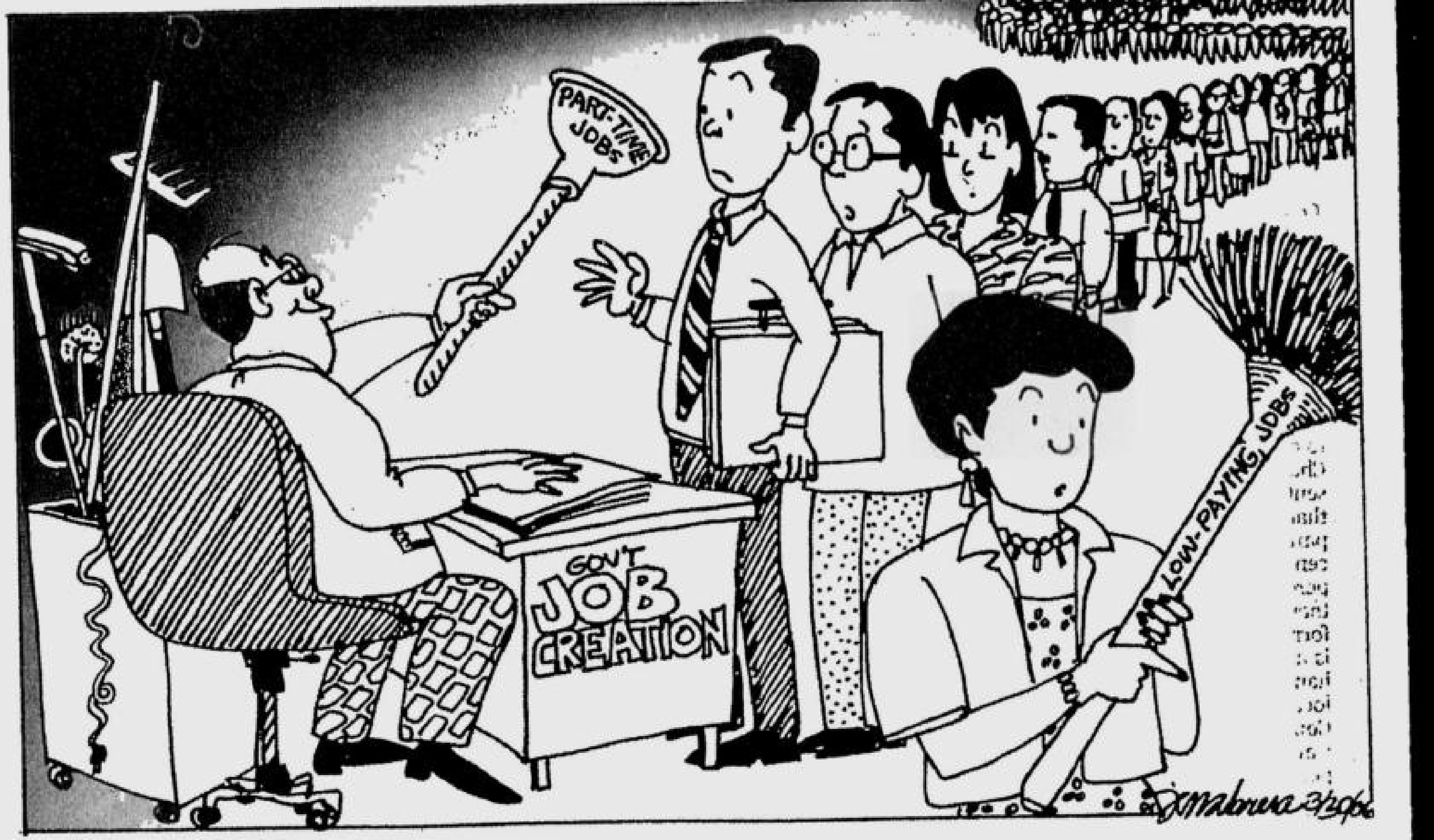
The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6000

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Absolute power

EDITORIAL

PRESS SECRETARY IGNACIO BUNYE ASSURES everyone that President Macapagal-Arroyo uses her appointing power very wisely and well. "The President's power to hire and fire functionaries in the executive branch has been exercised judiciously in the public interest," the presidential spokesman declared last Monday when the INQUIRER began its series on political appointees populating the civil service.

Maybe, Bunye should have read the article before he opened his mouth. Since he didn't say it tongue-in-cheek, that statement only made him sound like a brazen liar.

Consider just two appointees mentioned in the article written by Jerry Esplanada. The first is Esperanza Abriol, administrator of the presidential mansion in Baguio City. A dentist by profession, she is apparently well-regarded by her colleagues, having once been elected as vice president of the Philippine Dental Association. She describes herself as "very capable," "very well-organized" and willing to serve the President until she is "maybe" 77 years old. But she is 73, well past the retirement age of 65 for all civil servants (with the exception of justices and judges). And when she attended one official function, witnesses said she looked "frail and seemed to have difficulty walking around." When asked to read something, she could not do it because she had forgotten to bring not her eyeglasses but her magnifying glass. All of which should have made everyone—Ms Arroyo and Bunye, included—wonder how she could run a 13-hectare estate used as the President's summer retreat.

Then there is Dennis Cunanan, who seemed to have impressed top administration officials by packaging a scholarship program that Ms Arroyo touted during the presidential campaign. That faint brush with scholarship earned Cunanan an appointment as executive director of the Commission on Higher Education. But there was one big hitch: the CHED union, composed mostly of college graduates, threatened to go on strike. And for a very good reason: Cunanan did not finish college. It must have slipped the President's mind that appointing an undergraduate to head a commission that regulates higher education was not only the height of irony but also a debasement of higher learning and an insult to everyone who had earned a college degree.

But this was not the only irony in the Cunanan appointment. At about the same time, Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David recalls, Palace officials were trying to fire cameramen working with Radio-TV Malacañang because they did not have college degrees. It seems that the administration thinks it takes much less training and education to run a whole education agency than to point a camera at the President and her guests. So much for the President's judicious exercise of the power to hire.

As to the judicious use of the power to fire, what about the sudden relief of Miguel Luz as undersecretary of education? Luz had played a key role in implementing reforms in the Department of Education, particularly its graft-ridden book procurement program. But when he balked at accepting a post-dated check, which looked suspiciously like a pay-off for a congressman's support for the President who was then facing an impeachment complaint, he was told by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to pack up and leave. When told that Luz could not be dismissed without cause especially because he was a career service executive, Ermita ordered him to move to the Department of Labor and Employment. For following the law, Luz paid a heavy price. And Bunye calls this a judicious exercise of power?

These are not isolated cases. The dismissal or grounding of career civil service officials and the hiring of political supporters, who don't have the necessary qualifications, are happening all over the government bureaucracy. Add to this the creeping militarization of the civil service, which has seen Ms Arroyo appoint more retired military and police officers than any of her predecessors.

But if all this indiscriminate hiring and firing have demoralized the career officers (who have staked their future in the public service) and made a shambles of the professional civil service, Malacañang apparently could not care less. Ermita wouldn't even bother to justify the President's appointments, declaring that it is the President's prerogative to make them. "When the President makes a choice, nobody should question it," Ermita said.

Sorry, but until now few Filipinos know that they are ruled by a capricious sovereign and an absolute dictator.

Diaspora philanthropy

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THEY CALL IT "DIASPORA PHILANTHROPY"—efforts by often homesick overseas migrants to support development initiatives in the poverty-strapped homeland they left. And it is innovative—and it has grown over five-fold in as many years.

Pooled by Filipinos abroad, the gifts, donations and services are different from "remittances" (funds whittled from pay packets of overseas workers and sent, on a more or less regular basis, to families left behind). They are "unilateral cash gifts, goods and services." Some seek to jump-start projects in economically stagnant places the migrants fled from. Others cascade, helter-skelter, into a bewildering range of beneficiaries: schools, hospitals, churches, NGOs, town plazas and emergency relief. Aid for Southern Leyte mudslide victims is only the latest.

There are many ways to gauge this development. One is from the increasingly precise way the Bangko Sentral tracks the inflow of funds under Worldwide Balance of Payments Manual rules. Another is from the equally telling "worm's eye" view of individual donors.

Overseas Filipinos sent $7.639 billion directly to their families in 2003, Bangko Sentral figures show. "Diaspora philanthrophy" that year funneled $218 million here. This "figure is the highest in five years," Jeremaiah Opiniano of the OFW Journalism Consortium writes. In 1999, that was only $45 million. At exchange rates prevailing then, that was P11.8 billion injected into the economy.

The data indicate "there's a large untapped resource of philanthropic funds from the diaspora," especially for non-profit programs, says Tito Gonzalo Rivera of Ayala Foundation Inc. (AFI). "Civil society groups can now have an idea of the playing field."

Diaspora resources "could be a source of funds which could help in the development of the countryside," notes Asian Development Bank consultant Ildefonso Bagasao. These philanthropic transfers are mostly "unorganized."

"Many civil society groups have yet to look at overseas Filipinos as a resource," he writes. Studies are needed to pinpoint "what prevents overseas Filipinos from giving more."

Bureaucratic sludge, lack of accountability, petty politics and corruption, answers a UP graduate who is now a New York-based executive. (Names are disguised given the "nuances of small town jealousies.")

"Some friends and I started a book-lending program, in the town where I spent the first 16 years of life. 'A' town is 25 minutes away from 'B' City. Third grade students there can't read. And when they finally do, they don't grasp what they're reading—hampered, by dearth of reading materials.

"We've learned from failures of just stocking libraries. There's successful experience with a free book-lending program that operates like a library. More students come (to the program) than to school libraries (which are) closed after office hours and weekends.

"But we don't work through the local government. Involvement with politicians is a kiss of death, we decided early on. As a courtesy, we've informed the LGU of our initiatives. We doubt if we'll get a reply, considering *wala silang makuhang mehora* (they can't skim off anything).

"Friends sent tons of books through (the) local government and civic groups. But when they visited, they couldn't trace their donations. California colleagues complain their container shipments of books are gathering dust, months after arrival. Clearance is snail-paced. And too many people bicker on how to distribute them.

"We're not deluged with help from this end. Funny, Americans are more enthusiastic about donating than Filipinos. To pay for shipment, we hit family, relatives, and every friend we've made in our life. It's easier to raise money than civic consciousness, specially when volunteers are needed.

"History teaches us we have a culture of volunteerism. But latter-day Filipinos have a strange sequence of volunteering. They shuffle on the sidelines, look from the corner of their eyes. And when they see something is happening, *ayan, papapel* or *poporma na*—but only after the heavy lifting is done.

"What puzzles me is why many retired teachers—some of them still young—are not involved in activities that help educate the children. The list of things that they can do is endless.

"In Guimaras, Iloilo, there's a reading remedial program supported by Save the Children Federation. Conducted by school teachers and volunteers, it's getting good results. Now, why can't my town 'A' copy that?

"Recently, we read here in New York of Eugenia Apostol's 'Education Revolution' initiatives. Surely, retired teachers' association can support its "Mentoring the Mentors" and other similar programs. A lot of these initiatives do not need a lot of financing. Time and commitment are just what it takes.

"Education volunteerism is a hard sell. Other projects have 'donated by' signs, with names of the 'philanthropists' splashed all over. But how does one portray reading's benefits in the life of a young child?

"Oh, I'm not complaining what I have gotten myself into. I know these things would make a tiny difference, if at all. But if that's the best I can hope for, that's good enough for me."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Graduating

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVEN'T FELT SAD ABOUT GRADUATIONS in a long time. But this year I do. It's not because my son graduated from high school the other Sunday—and graduations are as much an excuse to sing a wistful "Sunrise, Sunset" as they are to bring out the bubbly, while wondering how in God's name your son managed the feat without you ever seeing him study. And it's not because, as the editorials of newspapers almost ritualistically lament, there are few jobs waiting out there for the horde that has just finished college. It's simply that I can't for the life of me see how the graduates can soar to inspired heights today.

Graduation is normally a time for, as Browning says, reaching for things that exceed your grasp, or what's heaven for. It's a time for class valedictorians and graduation speakers to exhort the young, for whom the world stretches into the horizon with its endless possibilities, to be the best that they can be. It's a time when parents remember the dreams and hopes they've had, partly tinged with regret for the things that did not come true, partly brimming with thanksgiving for the blessings that unexpectedly did.

This year, however, we find a world that seems resolutely opposed to all this. If the best teacher is example, then the graduates of today have very little to learn from their parents. This is a country where people are content to reach for things that lie well within their grasp, and still fail to touch them. This is a country where people say beggars cannot be choosers, dreamers belong only to the loony bin, forget about winning medals in swimming it's all we can do to keep our head above water. Indeed, this is a country where being honest and noble and heroic no longer means anything; while making do with the worst is now everything.

Nothing has brought out to me the stark contrast between what graduation means and what living in this country today does more than the Philippine Military Academy graduation last week. GMA was the guest in that graduation, which made the contrast exceptionally dramatic. Clearly, the kids there had more to teach her than she the kids.

The valedictorian of the biggest class in that institution thus far, Ariel Toledo, showed so. He challenged his fellows to live lives of quiet heroism, and he knew whereof he spoke. He himself had done so. He came from impoverished origins, his father dying in 1992 in tragic circumstances and his mother supporting them by selling wares until she too died five years ago. His sisters—"my personal heroes"—spent for his studies by doing odd jobs abroad, and he made sure not a single centavo of what he got was wasted. He studied hard, and rose to the top of his class. Where he is now is as much his sisters' handiwork as his own.

It was "a touching personal speech," the honored, but not very honorable, guest would say later. But, of course, it was. And if indeed it had touched her, she would even now be moving out of the Palace by the Pasig out of shame.

The contrast was monumental. Toledo had fought adversity and by dint of hard work had managed to snare the top honors of his favorite school. GMA had fought only boredom, which is the lot of someone born with a silver spoon, or into the household of a former President, and by dint of playing safe had managed to snatch the highest position of the land. Toledo had begun low and ended very high up in life, the toast of his fellows, a living example for his community to follow. GMA had begun high and ended up very low down in life, the most disliked person in her country, a living example of what public elementary school teachers warn their pupils never to become.

Toledo had spoken of the joys and rewards that come from altruism and self-sacrifice. Though they themselves were as poor as church mice and had to scrounge around for a living, Toledo's sisters had given freely of what they had to him, for no other reason than that it was the right thing to do. GMA has shown only the pain and punishment others have to endure to pay for one's selfishness and self-absorption. Though born to power and wealth she can't have enough of them, clinging to them at all costs, including the ruination of her country. If she gives freely to the public, all she gives are more people of the likes of Jose Pidal, the Gonzales(z) duo, Ronnie Puno and Mike Defensor, for no other reason than that the public has turned masochist and want more of the same. Or want to "move on" despite being handcuffed to the bed post in the company of a dominatrix.

Toledo had spoken of living a quiet heroic life, a life of meeting challenges every day, a life of teaching by deed rather than by word, by example rather than by propaganda. GMA has lived only a loud misogynist life, a life of daily fighting off public scorn and calls for her to vacate a post she never won, a life of teaching the worst possible things by example little eased or alleviated by PR. If example is the best teacher, ask yourself what GMA, Pidal, the Gonzales(z) duo, Puno and Defensor are teaching the kids.

In the end, Toledo has shown what other true winners before him have shown, which is what winning is all about. Winning is not physical, it is moral: it is a triumph of the spirit. Winning is not external, it is internal: it is felt in the heart. Winning is not about finishing first, it is about being an inspiration to others. It is showing others the best they can be. Winning is not about keeping, it is about sharing; it is not about glory, it is about honor; it is not about leading the pack, it is about picking yourself up after falling down and limping all the way to the finish line.

Well, maybe, graduation this year isn't so sad after all.

Can Comelec ignore millions of signatures?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I AGREE WITH ED MALAY, DIRECTOR OF THE Center for Issues and Advocacy, when he opined that it's difficult to see how the Commission on Elections can ignore 6 to 7 million signatures of registered voters in the "people's initiative." Reports quoted the poll body as saying it would have "no choice" but to discard the signatures once the petition is filed. This must be so, new Election Commissioner Romeo Brawner said, because the Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that a people's initiative to amend the Constitution could not prosper without an enabling law. But Brawner made it clear that the Comelec's decision must be made en banc.

But as former President Ramos said, this is now the people speaking out in a massive way—vox populi, vox Dei—and they cannot be ignored. The petition will surely reach the Supreme Court. And political pundits have observed that its members have been known to reverse their stance.

* * *

Doubtless, the people's initiative will be the subject of a lot of debates in the immediate days to come. But from the practical standpoint, pro-Charter change members of the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, say that the fact that the Constitution requires the participation of a massive bloc—at least 12 percent of the total registered voters and at least 3 percent per legislative district—must be read that constitutional revision (e.g., change in the form of government), and not just amendments, is allowed in a people's initiative. On the other hand, Cha-cha critics argue that if even a simple local bill requires the vote of both chambers of Congress, doesn't logic dictate that such a significant change require a similar action? No dice to people's initiative for revision, they stress.

* * *

The Court of Appeals ordered the Department of Justice to stop its preliminary investigation of the Feb. 4 "Wowowee" tragedy after ABS-CBN filed a petition alleging that the DOJ had exhibited "institutional bias" against the network. ABS-CBN's lawyer complained that the DOJ prosecutors moved so precipitately on the case, displaying obvious "bias." It's interesting that the lawyer would complain of the DOJ's undue haste in conducting the preliminary investigation, when the tragedy is already nearly two months old! The question is, as Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez logically asked, if DOJ prosecutors are stopped from investigating the case, who can investigate it? Under the rules of court, it's only government prosecutors who are authorized to do so.

* * *

There is a lot of irony in the network's complaint of "bias." All through these many months, a number of TV viewers have turned away from this network, disgusted by its obvious bias against the administration and its often one-sided treatment of news. People have noted how some of its anchorpersons would virtually put words into the mouths of interviewees and ask leading questions. Now the shoe is on the other foot, and the network is accusing the DOJ of "bias." It's the best authority when it comes to this subject.

What's fast becoming evident is that ABS-CBN is going to apply its formidable clout to delay the investigation until such time that it can finish negotiating out-of-court settlements with the families of the 72 dead and the 800 or so injured in the "Wowowee" tragedy. But even after a settlement will have been concluded with the victims or their families, there's still the criminal liability of those who were clearly negligent.

* * *

INQUIRER reader Marcos Sibal, writing in this paper's Letters section, misread an item in this column. Earlier I said, in answer to queries about why the absence of a genuine outrage over the allegation that GMA cheated, that one reason may be the perception that after all, other politicians appeared to have cheated, too. I said that only last week, when Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile claimed that Sen. Jamby Madrigal had cheated to get herself elected. Sibal misinterpreted that statement, saying that I was suggesting that we "just shrug our shoulders and let bygones be bygones."

Far from it. A long time ago, when losing candidate Aquilino Pimentel filed charges against some Comelec personnel he perceived to have conspired in cheating him, I cheered him on and followed the case religiously, hoping he'd pursue his crusade to the end. But it's quite another thing when after seven months of congressional inquiry into the Garci tapes and a defeated impeachment process, we refuse to lay to rest the cheating issue against GMA to the detriment of the country's progress and stability. I deplore the new-found "morality," especially as it is conveniently invoked by leaders who have little moral ascendancy and because it is obviously aimed only at ousting one person: GMA. Let's clean the whole system and punish all cheaters.

* * *

Last week, a day before the first testimony of former President Joseph Estrada before the Sandiganbayan, Sen. Panfilo Lacson made the stunning revelation that when he was chief of the Philippine National Police, Estrada accepted *jueteng* money and channeled it to the Muslim Youth Foundation. Lacson said he advised Estrada that even if his intentions were good, receiving jueteng money was illegal. He also disclosed that he himself refused to accept the P5 million monthly payola allotted to the PNP chief by jueteng lords.

After that revelation, Lacson became silent. Many people are wondering if he's standing by what he said. Estrada's spokesperson, Didagen Dilangalen, has said Lacson's statement might no longer be admissible in court since the prosecution has rested its case. But the people would like the former president to comment on Lacson's statement. And they want Lacson to say if he's standing pat on what he said.

Mayday! Mayday! for the aviation industry

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE LOCAL AVIATION INDUSTRY COULD crash if the exodus of aviation experts does not slow down. The industry is composed of two sectors: the airlines and the service providers.

"Poaching at the highest level" was how a Filipino airline executive called the aggressive recruitment of pilots by foreign airlines. These "poachers" have been reportedly coming to make choice pickings from the Philippines' pool of highly trained experts. They could offer higher pay because they had not spent money and time to train their own.

More than 100 Filipino pilots. This was what the Indian air industry was reportedly in search of during its recent recruitment foray in the Philippines. That's too many considering that the Philippines has about only 700 commercial pilots to go around.

Singapore reportedly has an active order for 50 pilots pending at the Philippine Overseas and Employment Association.

From 2004 to 2005, more than 200 aircraft mechanics and aviation support staff have left the country, according to Philippine Overseas Employment Administration figures. Philippine Airlines has lost 75 pilots in the last three years to different airlines in the Middle East and Asia.

"We could lose more and we are feeling the pinch," said PAL vice president for human resources Cesar Lamberte. "India will be needing 3,500 pilots in the next four to five years." The projected number is about 10,000 pilots for China in the next 20 years.

The good news is that Filipino airplane pilots, mechanics, engineers, technicians, airline crew, etc., are so good that they are in such great demand abroad. The bad news is that they are being snapped up by foreign recruiters faster than the local aviation industry can train new ones and replenish the pool.

The foreign air industries' gain is certainly the Philippines' loss. The dollar remittances that are supposed to result from this phenomenon would not be enough to repair the damage to the Philippine industry that serves both local and foreign airline needs.

Key players in the aviation industry have written Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to stress that "(i)f the current exodus of these highly skilled mission critical staff continues, the impact on the operations of the local aviation industry as well as the subsequent loss of the sector's contribution to the national economy would be severe and irreparable."

"It takes about P14 million to produce a full-fledged pilot," Lamberte told the INQUIRER. PAL has 419 pilots and runs an aviation training school.

Lamberte explained why foreign airlines could offer Filipino recruits higher pay. "First, they don't have to spend for training. Second, they don't have to wait seven to 10 years to produce a pilot. You need so many flying hours to become a captain or co-captain."

In other words, the making of an airline captain cannot be fast-tracked. Flying is a highly regulated profession. A pilot should fly only up to 1,000 hours a year.

Lufthansa Technik Philippines consultant Enzo Ziga said that aircraft mechanics would also be in demand. It takes five to six years and P3 million to train an aircraft mechanic. "There are about 1,700 aircraft mechanics in the industry and this number is not enough," Ziga added.

The Philippine State College of Aeronautics is supposedly the country's training ground for aviation-needs upgrading. It is the private aviation industry that has so far been carrying the costly burden of training.

According to statistics, the air transport industry provides employment for about 27,000 Filipinos. It serves 31 international and 21 domestic destinations, and another 200 routes for non-scheduled carriers. It flies 22,500 passengers and around 500 tons of cargo every day.

Among the key players that have made the Philippines the regional hub for maintenance and repair are Lufthansa Technik Phils., Aviation Plus and Miascor. At least 15,000 are employed in this sector.

With global passenger traffic expected to increase at 5 percent yearly until 2023, the projected number of new aircraft would be 16,601 worldwide.

Singapore is in need of 767 airline mechanics and 50 junior mechanics. Saudi Arabia needs 73. These are active job orders with the POEA. Also being hired are painters, planners, ticketers and airport representatives. Cabin crew hiring is also increasing. A Middle East airline is said to be hiring 1,000 per year and the target is 12,000 by 2012.

Here at home, the air transport industry will be requiring more planes for the local carriers in the next five years.

Although there is a glut of pilots in the United States, Lamberte said the airlines of the Middle East are not likely to look in that direction. Filipinos are a top choice. When proficiency in English becomes an enforced prerequisite in 2008, there will be an increased demand for Filipinos.

So what does the industry propose? That the government "consider a ban on the overseas deployment of the said occupations and skills in pursuit of the national interest for a period of three to five years, effective immediately."

The ban will give the domestic aviation industry "a breathing space that should allow current interventions ... such as aggressive manpower training programs to provide a buffer when the time to lift the deployment ban comes."

At present, the industry players said, "the exodus far outpaces whatever efforts are taken by the industry in training replacements since there is a long lead time involved."

Last January, Rep. Roseller Barinaga filed a resolution asking both the executive and legislative departments to support the proposed temporary ban.

Mayday! Mayday!

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Going for broke

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IS THAT EFforts to amend the Constitution are either a distraction, or a gamble, or both; that the President is ambivalent about these efforts, because win or lose, whether or not she achieves a more pliable unicameral legislature and more powers as president-cum-prime minister, she stands to remain in office, anyway, until 2010. But if the efforts succeed, it's gravy all the way, baby. And there will be gravy for everybody—even the opposition. Not a single opponent of Charter change through a "people's initiative" has announced he/she will relinquish his/her seat in the House of Representatives or the Senate, or his/her governorship, mayoralty or anything, if the President succeeds.

There's something in it for everybody. Instead of guns, goons and gold, it is rice, lifting term limits and postponing elections indefinitely. This is why I believe that the advantage is with the administration. Furthermore, through a combination of the Palace-sponsored "people's initiative" and the subsequent referendum, the President will be able to say she has what she has, since July, lacked: a mandate. Unless the referendum and the counting are marred by brutality and blatant cheating, no one will be able to dispute the assertion that the people have spoken. Those opposed will just have to wait until the "New Order" starts to self-destruct (which I am confident it will, but not for some time).

This is why I don't think the President or her people are ambivalent about the ongoing exercise at all—failure is not an option. This is the kind of fight for which the President is perfectly suited. She has shown, time and again, that she is particularly gifted when it comes to organizing efforts geared toward a particular goal. She is well-served by a staff that is ever-willing—as the fashionable saying goes—to "think out of the box," but still keeps things within the comfort level of those involved. Therefore, I highly doubt if there will be any logistical or legal obstacle to the President and her allies achieving what they want.

The solicitor general, interviewed on TV the other day, was reportedly very confident about the prospects of a favorable decision by the Supreme Court. Not so confident, of course, as to suggest collusion was taking place.

The House keeps changing the particulars of the amendments it wants—which means those critical, or opposed, are having a devil of a time figuring out what, exactly, the changes will be. Presented with a "yes" or "no" to a dizzying array of amendments, the people will find it easier to simply "move on" and get the damned thing over with. And who can blame them? Outflanked and outfoxed, the public will say, "serves you right." Besides, the rice and cash and door prizes already doled out during the barangay assemblies are a sign of more goodies to come.

We will spend the next decade or so pupating as a confused and confusing pseudo-parliamentary system, until the President manages her transformation from president to prime minister for life (or both). The President has time on her side. She can outfight and outlive both Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos: that's the bottom line. Everyone else, in the face of her new mandate by way of a referendum on amendments, will eventually find a way to make peace with the re-varnished dispensation. Those who don't can be ignored or locked up. Life, may actually improve or, at least, not get worse: and if it does get worse, there will still be suspects aplenty to blame.

That's the plan, as far as I can see it. There is a certain beauty to it. We often hear that the Filipino loves the underdog. I have said before, I disagree with this observation. We only root for the underdog when there's a chance he can manage the transformation to top dog. Otherwise, we reserve a particular scorn for the dreamer, the failed dissident, the disastrously ill-fated outsider. As the saying goes, every dog has his day—even the *tuta*, or should I say, particularly so, the lapdog, which enjoys at least a membership in the pack and the comforts of the kennel.

Is it possible for the present "initiative" to fail? Anything is possible, but right now, I can't see how people can still believe failure is probable. It is more prudent to assume that it will succeed, all the way down to plebiscite day. What can be done to stop it, derail it? Nothing. And I mean nothing—not even bloody and unconstitutional means. So for those still interested in fighting the good fight, I suggest that you think in terms of what you would do come July 1, 2010, when the President is still in office, and those surrounding her have become comfortable enough to dream the dreams that once inspired those we now call the Marcos cronies.

Those dreams are just germinating—for now. They are far from becoming the stuff from which public resentment is made: no raiding of corporate boardrooms, no takeovers of fat, juicy businesses, no widespread, organized farming-out of monopolies or rackets; none of these things—on a scale to inspire the middle class to start fearing for its property and employment, or the business leadership to start worrying about its corporate control—is taking place. Not yet. Not now. Not even in the short-term future. But it will take place.

I remember a discussion with a colleague late last year. It's 1983! I insisted, referring to the political conditions of our day. No, it's 1972, my colleague argued back. Soon after that, I came around to agreeing with my colleague. Which is why the coming administration victory—and even the years of relative quiet and, perhaps, even prosperity that will follow—doesn't faze me. Perhaps, it's the way things should be. These things take time.

First bribe

YOUNG BLOOD

Luis R. Buenaventura III

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S OFFICIAL. I JUST PAID MY FIRST BRIBE.

Exiting the Edsa tunnel underneath the Shaw interchange in Mandaluyong, I had turned right to SM Megamall when a man in uniform suddenly came running toward me. Slowly, the excitement that was meant to be savored on the day my dad finally allowed me to use the car faded, and chills went up my spine.

The man was a traffic enforcer of the MMDA and he cited me for a traffic violation I had not heard of before: "swerving." Without much ado, the questioning began. He did all the talking. I was all ears, but what I was hearing was all babble. My only concern was how to get out of the fix and crafting a good explanation to my parents. Like a hapless fool, I reached for my wallet and, on cue, slipped a week's worth of allowance into his black leather case.

Five years after that first episode, I recall doing the same thing at least two more times. Each time, I congratulated myself for getting down to the "real" business very easily. I must have been inspired by scenes from Hollywood movies where wily crooks bought themselves out of trouble without hesitation or fear. But I swear that I didn't progress to committing felony in my entire life.

It felt like only yesterday when my values education teacher in elementary school described corrupt people as hideous beasts. And I couldn't believe when I realized that I had become one.

The reality was brought home to me when I hitched a ride with a friend. She was caught going the wrong way on a one-way street. To cut a long story short, she extricated herself from the fix the same way I did on those three previous occasions. I felt like I was looking at myself in the mirror.

She gave me the same excuse that sounds so reasonable: "I'm a busy person. There are more important things for me to do than go through the hassle of making everything legal. Besides, a couple of hundred bucks won't hurt a bit, would it? In fact, everybody goes home happy. The traffic officer earns a little extra to augment his meager salary. And heaven knows, I won't do it ever again."

I had heard it before. But still I was a bit shocked by her action and her attempt to justify it. She was well respected in our circle of friends. She was upright. She was a good person!

Then it hit me: How many "good" people out there actually succumb to the temptation to engage in such a dishonest practice?

Feeling the pangs of guilt, I resolved to do the right thing the next time something similar happened. I told myself that the next time I got caught violating traffic rules, I would surrender my license and calmly engage the apprehending traffic officer in polite discourse.

When it finally happened, I got more than what I bargained for. The officer returned my license, without hinting at some consideration, although he gave me a brief lecture on traffic rules and safety.

But even this feel-good anecdote was not received well by my friends. They told me that talking at some length with a traffic officer late at night was a very risky thing to do. "That was stupid," they said. "You never know what crazy things public officials are capable of these days."

To be fair, I do see their point. I mean I should give serious thought to their concern, seeing how many heinous crimes are being committed these days.

But I also realize that this growing tolerance is being promoted by "good" people who don't think twice before giving small bribes. In the larger scheme of things, this wicked propensity to go for the "quick fix" is borne out of frustration over greater societal ills like poverty, the absence of peace and security, and corruption in high places.

In his practical book on nation-building, titled "12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country," lawyer Alexander Ledesma Lacson urges respect for the traffic officer, soldier and other public servants.

I have had five traffic encounters since I resolved to do things the right way. And I must say I got my license back every time, without paying a bribe. Integrity, like barbarity, is reciprocated even out there in the streets.

Even someone as ordinary as I am can actually do something about our nation's most serious problems after all. For one thing, corruption can be reduced, and, as Lacson said, this can begin by respecting traffic officers.

If treating them with respect doesn't get me back my license, so be it. I just have to go through the more cumbersome legal process of getting it back. It's not easy. But it's plainly my civic duty.

Luis R. Buenaventura III, 25, is a project analyst at Lufthansa Technik Philippines.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Meat for mincing

"If I were not in the Senate, I would love to handle the case and make mincemeat of the case of anyone against these people."

—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on the government's case of coup d'etat against former Sen. Gringo Honasan and his six alleged co-conspirators

No cheating

"We are serious about this, but we are not traditional politicians who will cheat for a seat in the government. *Kung* (If we) lose, *e di* (then we) lose, try *na lang ulit sa* (again in) 2010. *Pero kung* (But if we) win, *eh di* (then we are a) winner."

—Danton Remoto, founding chair of Ang Ladlad—a network of 150 lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender Filipinos—on its plan to file his group's candidacy for party-list representation

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

No shortcuts to 'revolutions'

I'M A MEMBER OF THE SILENT majority and, although I don't go marching on the streets with other concerned citizens: (1) I am angry at how President Macapagal-Arroyo disrespected, corrupted and destroyed our country's military and political institutions; and at how she undermined our people's welfare and rights. (2) I am angry at how she and her lapdogs acted like dictators in the investigation of the fertilizer scam, *jueteng*, etc. (3) I am equally disappointed with our opposition politicians, who are mostly *trapos* with undesirable track records, offering themselves as substitute.

Are we, therefore, in a situation where we have to choose between evil and the lesser evil?

I suggest that the silent majority start getting involved in: (1) discussing, intelligently and nonviolently, through the free press, issues against GMA and her gang; 2) exposing the details of her wrongdoings in government (e.g., through investigative journalism); this way the people will be able to distinguish between fact and propaganda; (3) rejecting Charter change while she remains in Malacañang; (4) calling a middle-class leader (the likes of Oscar Orbos, Manny Villar, etc.) to start mobilizing people and social institutions (churches, academe, civic organizations, NGOs, etc.) into ensuring the election in 2007 of at least 80 congressmen and the necessary number of senators to impeach GMA in that same year; (5) after her impeachment, filing cases against her and her husband; (6) helping the Vice President institute reforms from 2007 to 2010; and (7) changing the form of government to parliamentary by 2010, and instituting reforms to further strengthen the independence of our primary democratic institutions.

My point is: There is no shortcut to a successful social, political and economic revolution. Even successful armed revolutions take time to mature.

—RAMON REYES,
valleverde33@yahoo.com

Cheating to win elections—a matter of practicality

THIS REFERS TO RANDY DAVID'S column, titled "The pessimism of spectators." (PDI, 3/5/06) In that column, he drummed up the idea that the concerned and enlightened middle class is not acting the way it did to oust Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada because it is looking for guarantees that the one who will replace Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be better.

Let me offer another probable reason: Despite our being a predominantly Christian nation, we are not outraged by the alleged cheating of GMA because we feel Philippine elections have always been unfair.

The *masa* can't choose their candidates wisely in their endless and daily struggle to survive. And they outnumber by the millions the educated middle and upper classes that are better informed because they can afford to buy newspapers or listen to current events programs. All that the *masa* understand is who can give them doles, who can protect them from eviction, who mouths pro-poor slogans, who looks charming, who to remember during election time.

And, maybe, we suffer GMA's sins because she is proving to be a good, hardworking President; and if she cheated in the elections, it was because she wanted to win so she could continue the good job she had started.

Yes, there may be millions more who are better than GMA, in brains, love of country, experience and integrity. But given the reality of Philippine elections, do they stand a chance of winning against Erap or Dolphy or against Manny Pacquiao?

Something must be done about our electoral system. In the meantime, practicality must give way to idealism. We are so tired of politics, we'd rather rally behind our country in the pursuit of our economic goals than rally on the streets.

—ROSA DE JESUS,
rosedjh@yahoo.com

GMA's claim makes a strong argument for atheism

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE news story "'It's God's plan I'm here'" (PDI, 3/8/06) on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's claim that she is God's plan for the country. The statement is an affront to God.

It is common knowledge that using God's name in claiming a mandate to govern and in justifying illegal acts is not a new technique. This was used by the Spanish colonizers to subjugate our forebears. After grabbing our lands and enslaving, torturing and killing those who resisted their rule, they claimed everything that they were doing was the "will of God." And they tried to soften the hearts of our forefathers by promising them an afterlife of total joy and happiness as a reward for all their earthly grief and pain.

History tells us that not everyone swallowed that propaganda. The Katipuneros and their supporters knew that, to a large degree, salvation had to be won by the people themselves. And so they rose up in arms against the "God-quoting" Spanish colonizers and drove them out of our country—only to be betrayed by the Americans, whose President William Mckinley claimed Divine guidance (told in a dream) in pursuing his "Manifest Destiny" policy, with which he justified US subjugation of the Philippines.

GMA's penchant for dropping the name of God also insults the Filipino people.

When the opposition moves to get to the bottom of the truth behind the alleged election fraud, the multimillion-dollar NorthRail project, Venable contract, the fertilizer scam and other questionable deals, she puts up blocks, such as the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy, EO 464 and Proclamation 1017.

GMA's claim that she and her wrongdoings are God's will is a score for atheism.

—JULIE L. PO,
Concerned Artists of the
Philippines (CAP),
39 Scout Bayoran, QC

The Philippines: Pearl of the Orient no more?

OURS IS A NATION SADLY BESET with calamities—El Niño, La Niña, El Erap and now La Gloria. Once, the Pearl of the Orient, we are now the Shame of the Orient.

We have a weak leader who governs by accommodation and empty rhetoric, thus encouraging more corruption which we have had for many decades. Widespread poverty remains, addressed with fake compassion.

Really, we don't have much to crow about as the only Christian nation in the Orient.

A weak leader is our heavy burden. A weak nation is ours to suffer.

—VICTOR MURILLO,
658 Maharlika St.,
Plainview 1550,
Mandaluyong City

A paradise for tourists

AFTER A PROLONGED ABSENCE from the pages of the Daily Telegraph, several articles about the Philippines have made a comeback. The articles have greatly interested us, as our daughter lives in the Philippines. She was the subject of Ramon Farolan's New Year column extolling renewed British-Philippine ties.

The Telegraph reported on the recent attempted coup, and it was followed by an article about the late Ferdinand Marcos, with a photo of his wife laying flowers on his preserved body.

The latest was a photo of the Banaue rice fields, which are plagued by a worm infestation. It would seem that this "idyllic area"—the Telegraph's words—could be saved by releasing rats on the territory, but this cannot be done for lack of funds.

Then there was a the BBC show on child prostitution in the Philippines, which was greatly disturbing.

My wife and I went to Manila last February to attend the baptism of our grandson. In the church, separated from the family group gathered around the baptismal font, I was accosted by two very young girls selling flowers. The younger one smiled and said, "My sister is 15. You like her?" At most, she must have been 13. Enough said.

During the course of a very enjoyable fortnight, my wife often remarked "Isn't it a pity that they can't get their act together?"

On the last day of our stay, we read the INQUIRER and, sure enough, those exact words were there, from one of the newspaper's readers.

Our travel section in the Telegraph never ever mentions the Philippines. But I feel that, with so much to offer, your country could at least advertise itself more—step in, Department of Tourism!

In any case, the Philippines is the second cheapest place in the world to live in. A paradise for tourists who drink, smoke or eat out (and who doesn't?).

Tourism would be just a start. Another positive move would be to seize all the assets of Imelda Marcos, redistribute these to the poor, and make her earn her living on a realistic pension. Where, exactly did all her money come from?

—ROY GODDARD,
2 Harefield Rd.,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex,
P0226EB, England

People's initiative not on the agenda

THE FRONT PAGE OF THE INquirer's MARCH 24 issue carried a large photo of a streamer displayed at the Legaspi Village Park in Makati. The streamer invited constituents to attend our annual barangay general assembly. We were pleased with the publicity. The photo caption, however, declared that "Only this year it's different. Its main agenda is to kick off a signature campaign to amend the Constitution."

May we inform the public of the following:

1. We in Barangay San Lorenzo have been living in utmost fidelity to existing laws, including to the rule on the conduct of barangay general assemblies. Last year, we held three general assemblies, more than the number required by law. We hold barangay assemblies in our honest desire to keep effectively in touch with our people.

2. We also abide by the wisdom of holding synchronized general assemblies. This way, no barangay would be remiss in its function of convening its constituents.

3. Lowly as we are, we in the barangay stand in dignity and will not allow ourselves to be used to serve other people's selfish agenda. We will neither manipulate nor exploit our own constituents. People's initiative to change the Constitution was not listed in our agenda for the March 25 general assembly.

As barangay chair, the best that I can do regarding the matter is to respect the initiative of our people.

—JOSHUA JOHN C. SANTIAGO,
barangay chair,
Barangay San Lorenzo,
65 Amorsolo St.,
San Lorenzo Village,
Makati City

Promoting the Filipino language as a matter of national pride

IT'S STRANGE THAT WHILE we, Filipinos, prefer to watch TV news and shows in Filipino, the use of the national language is not earnestly being promoted.

Big fast-food chains, such as Jollibee and McDonald's, train their personnel to speak English when dealing with customers. Announcements made through paging systems in shopping malls are in English. Telephone operators and receptionists speak in English when attending to clients. Our honorable senators and congressmen deliver their speeches in English. So do our top government officials when they are in the United Nations; for national honor and dignity, they should use Filipino. Anyway, the UN can have the speeches translated instantly into other languages.

Even though English is accepted as a second language in our country, we must make special efforts to promote the national language for the benefit of our children and for national dignity.

—L. ENCHONG SEE,
enchongsee@yahoo.com

Why the coup d'état failed

I WAS SHOCKED BUT RELIEVED to read the INQUIRER news story "Now it can be told: Why 'withdrawal' plot failed" by Tony S. Bergonia. (PDI, 3/11/06)

So some military men really staged a coup! It might have been bloodless like the one staged by Gen. Angelo Reyes in 2001, but it was a coup just the same. Some people may call it "withdrawing support from the chain of command." But, to all intents and purposes, it was a coup.

The story did not mention the civilians involved. But there must have been a civilian component that could have provided the coup with a semblance of legitimacy by way of "people power." Thanks to Divine Providence, the coup did not succeed. A military-led government, even for a short time, would result in large-scale violence, even a civil war.

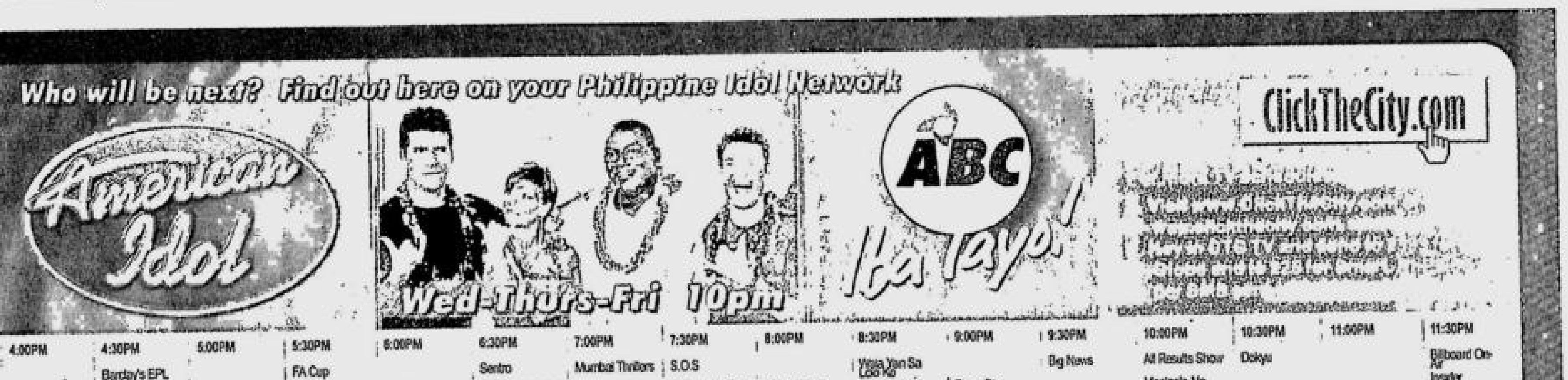
Allowing the military to take control of the highest political authority is a very dangerous gamble. It is believed that some members of the military advocate anti-Christian and anti-Catholic ideologies. If these people gain political power, they might use it to persecute the Catholic Church, subtly in the beginning but violently later.

Moreover, a military takeover is unconstitutional, even if done with good and noble intentions. Besides, what is the guarantee that a military rule will indeed be short as the plotters vowed theirs would be? Political power has a dazzling effect that can render ethically blind those who hold it.

Bergonia's story was enlightening. It gave us one more reason to thank God. I am convinced that God always takes care of the only Christian country in the Far East.

—MANUEL FELIX G. ABEJO JR.,
burrico@edsamail.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, March 30, 2006


Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

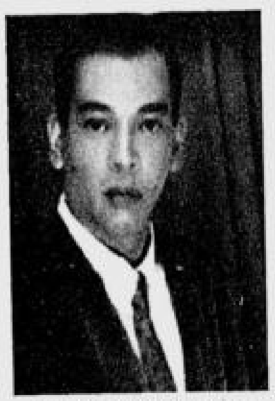
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		Barclay's EPL		FA Cup		Sentro	Mumbai Thrillers	S.O.S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	All Results Show	Dokyu		Billboard On-Air
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season II)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Cold Squad		Amazon		Fear Factor (Season V)		Fear Factor (Season V)		The Contender Rematch: Mora Vs. Manfredo			
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		Powerpuff Girls		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Kuwentong Bahay-Bahayan		Ka-11 Line: [illegible] Mo, Asawa Mo				Mano Po 3: My Love				Premonition				Hubog			
Cinemax			The Cannon (3:20 PM)		It Could Happen To You (4:45 PM)				Boiling Point			Blue Demon			Something To Talk About			Premonition (11:15 PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		Crossing Jordan		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	North Mission Road	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Prison Break	
Discovery Channel		Great Quakes		The Greatest Ever		Superstructures		Failure Analysis		Extreme Engineering		Building The Ultimate II: Stadium	Connect	Mythbusters		The Greatest Ever		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '05 Men's Sudden Death 7 Ball/ Billiards '03 Trick Shot Magic Baltimore, MD USA		X-Games Files '04	X-Games Files '04	In The Driver's Seat	Pool Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		In The Driver's Seat	American League Camp Series '05						
ETC		For Love Or Money 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Insider Weekend/ Rated On	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Virtue Storybook	Image Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	EWTN Gallery	Where God Weeps	EWTN Live: Exposed With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Catechisms And Controversies	The Word Was Made Flesh	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Thomas More: Faithful Statesman	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	Le Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Jewel In The Palace		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Sabrina The Teenage Witch			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Thicker Than Water			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine
HBO				The Brooke Ellison Story			Addicted To Love			The School Of Rock (7:15 PM)				Assassins				Vampire In Brooklyn	
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Beyblade V-Force	Crush Gear Nitro	Shadow Of The Elves	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines	Moto P.O.D. MAV (Goodbye for Now)	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits			Bling	Get Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New	Sessions: Unbound	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News		Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Africa From The Ground Up	Megastructures		Storm Stories		Frontiers of Construction		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Terrorism Week		Megastructures: [illegible]		Storm Stories: [illegible]	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Asia	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ [illegible] & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bayan OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			On The Right Track				Gintuang Tala				Maging Sino Ka Man				Tong-its				Ekis
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	O, Mare Ko		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene	Romance
RPN 9	TV Shopping					Global Window		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Global Window	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kasaganaan		Friends Again		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		WTA Indian Wells '06 [illegible]				GWS 12-2006	NBA Game: Suns @ Bucks					NBA Game: Pistons @ 76ers					Sportsdesk	IRF '06 Chess Masters Finals	
Sports Plus	NBA Game [illegible] Charlotte	Ultimate Fighting Championship				World Poker Tour [illegible]					Slipstream	World's Greatest Auto Shows		World Game		[illegible] Celebrity Poker Challenge			
Star Movies				Nature Unleashed: Tornado			Mrs. Doubtfire (5:35PM)				The Sweetest Thing (7:40 PM)			Barbershop 2: Back In Business			Faultline (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol		Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol	The Simple Life (Series 3)	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect (Series 2)	Seinfeld	American Idol
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Contender		Alias (8:20 PM)	Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fortune CARE

annual awards 2006


Jonathan T. Borbe
RGB-1st place GAM

Leo G. Regaliza
LGRA-2nd place GAM

Ana Marie H. Borbe
RGB-1st place AM

Luisito H. Velarde
RGB-2nd place AM

Aveleth A. Tabudlo
WAGA-3rd place AM

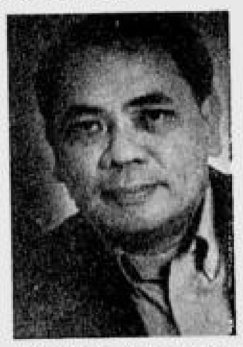
Ana Leah L. Regaliza
LGRA-1st place AE

Janet C. Almazan
AA-2nd place AE

Alfredo R. Bio
VA-3rd place AE

Agency Manager Level

Sonia B. Salazar
(RGB) 4th Place


Ruel V. Almazan
(AA) 5th Place

Account Executive Level

Ronaldo P. Cayabyab
(WAGA) 4th Place

Guisela F. Jardin
(LGRA) 5th Place

Manuel C. Padilla
(RGB) 6th Place

Armingol D. Davalos
(RGB) 7th Place

Heather E. Camacho
(PALAWAN) 8th Place

Jose B. Ibea
(RGB) 9th Place

Mercedes R. Santos
(PGA) 10th Place

Alicia Abel
(TARLAC) 11th Place

Milagros C. Javier
(LGRA) 12th Place

Arlene N. Cabarroguis
(WAGA) 13th Place

Florita U. Sevillana
(PALAWAN) 14th Place

Theresita S. Hernandez
(RGB) 15th Place

March 30, 2006
Mandarin Oriental, 6pm

messages.....

President of the Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to the top sales producers of Fortune Medicare Incorporated (Fortunecare), honorees in tonight's Annual Awards Program. Likewise, I greet the management, officers and staff, and members of the field sales team of Fortunecare as you hold this event.

I commend Fortunecare for your efforts to fulfill the goal you have set for yourself - to provide affordable, quality and comprehensive healthcare to your close to 300,000 members.

After two decades, Fortunecare stands firm as a leading member of the health maintenance organization industry. Your establishment of a wide network of clinics to serve as many people as possible and your use of the latest information and communication technology for improved efficiency are indeed laudable.

By working hard to attain success and stability for your company, you render valuable service to our people through your healthcare programs and quality service, and that is what makes you a dynamic partner of the government.

Let us continue to work together in ensuring the good health of our people. May this event inspire you to work more for the benefit of your clientele.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President
Fortune Medicare Incorporated

I would like to give my warmest congratulations to our outstanding sales achievers for 2005 as well as to the rest of the FortuneCare family who have proven once again the company's commitment to take care of the Filipino's health.

Indeed these individual milestones that you dear agents have achieved, when put together, make up the success of FortuneCare. In our 20 years of existence in the HMO industry, you have been my partners in consistently securing the high quality of healthcare in the country. Allow me to thank all of you for your unwavering support and immense effort in this endeavor.

Being in this business allowed us to make a difference in the lives of our clients, through our comprehensive healthcare services. In the years to come, let us continue touching lives as we aim for more developments, more upgrades in our facilities and more success. We can attain every goal as long as we remain united and determined.

Again, congratulations to all of us and more power!

J. ANTONIO A. CABANGON, JR.

Qualifiers (agency manager)

1.	Albarracin, Isabelita E.	WAGA	2.	Manalo, Teresita O.	TWA

Qualifiers (account executive)

1.	Mallari, Marife T.	Angeles	20.	Miranda, Eddiemar M.	RGB
2.	Lapastora, Cynthia L.	Los Baños	21.	Ruiz, Timoteo B.	RGB
3.	Dacanay, Carla T.	TGA	22.	Aldana, Arlene V.	TGA
4.	Tabaquero, Elsie B.	Tarlac	23.	Viray, Rebecca S.	Angeles
5.	Adizas, Amelita P.	Angeles	24.	Perico, Joseph Ma. A.	LGRA
6.	Grafil, Edelmiro A.	RGB	25.	Figueroa, Evangeline M.	BSA
7.	Talan, William	RGB	26.	Lopez, Reneli P.	TWA
8.	Isidoro, Renato Luis	VA	27.	Quiambao, Ma. Asuncion	TGA
9.	Mateo, Ma. Concepcion V.	Cabanatuan	28.	Duque, Ranilo	Tarlac
10.	Vargas, Ma. Theresa C.	Batangas	29.	Agtarap, Fernando R.	RGB
11.	Bondoc, Amel	Palawan	30.	Jurisprudencia, Criselda	Cavite
12.	Buelva, Venancio Jr, V.	WAGA	31.	Quinan, Normelinda R.	VA
13.	Velarde, Nerissa T.	RGB	32.	Albarracin, Ma. Victoria V.	WAGA
14.	Lapastora, Lucina P.	Los Baños	33.	Alcasid, Joanne Kristine	NLJA
15.	Blas, Noida N.	Palawan	34.	Verano, Ernesto C.	RGB
16.	Medina, Herminia	RGB	35.	Cervantes, Edna T.	LGRA
17.	Mamaril, Evangeline C.	LGRA	36.	Caabas, Miguel P.	Palawan
18.	Consulta, Bayani P.	BSA	37.	Vidas, Angelito	Angeles
19.	Dumancas, Rosilio	Iloilo	38.	Tiongson, Erlinda F.	TWA

3rd Floor Citystate Centre 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, Philippines **Tel. No.** (632) 637-0872 to 77 • **Fax No.** 636-6031 **E-mail:** fmi@fcarehmo.com.ph **www.fortunecare.com.ph • Hotline:** 24-Hour Hotline 1-800-10-633-8888 **(Provincial)** / 637-4229 **(Metro Manila)**

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

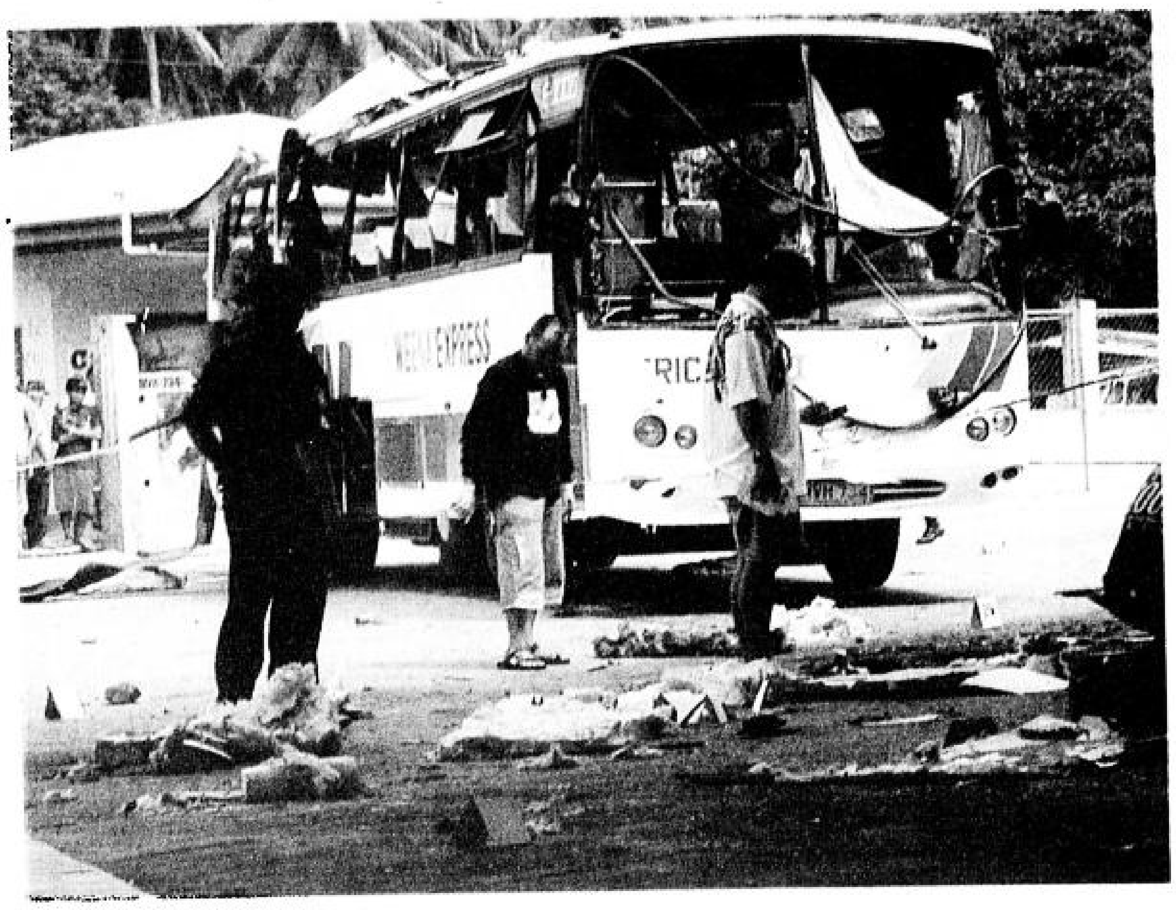
Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

8 injured in bus bombing in Digos



ELDIE S. AGUIRRE/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

THE BOMBED bus in its Digos City terminal.

DIGOS CITY—EIGHT PERSONS WERE INJURED when a bomb exploded inside a Davao City-bound bus here at about 11 a.m. yesterday.

The bus, driven by Arnold Bingil, came from Cotabato City with 21 passengers and was about to park at the Public Terminal II here when the explosion occurred.

Police identified the victims, seven of whom were passengers of the bombed bus, as engineer Gerry Piedad, 63, and his son Carlo Alvin, 12; Jomy Hao, 35; Pancif Mohidden, 19; Jasan Bangsuwakan; Norlgaya Suwaib and Ssgt. Moreto Magno of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion based in South Cotabato; and terminal vendor Martiniana Latasa, 63.

The explosion occurred as the New People's Army (NPA) was celebrating its 37th founding anniversary.

But police authorities declined to say whether the explosion had something to do with the NPA anniversary.

On Tuesday, Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao, vowed more attacks to force President Macapagal-Arroyo out of office.

Mayor Arsenio Latasa condemned the bombing and said those behind it should have not involved civilians.

"If they want to make political statements, they should not involve the civilians. They could always attack the military or the police," he said.

But Latasa did not categorically say if the NPA was behind the blast.

"We can't say as of now if it is really related to that. We are still investigating," Senior Supt. Binang Hajiril, Davao del Sur police chief, said.

Police said they have not identified the type of bomb used.

"There was no shrapnel so it was not really intended to harm," an investigator said.

He said the injuries suffered by the victims came from shattered window glasses.

The blast also damaged two other buses.

Magno, the injured soldier, said he saw a man rush to leave the bus as it parked at the terminal.

"Seconds after he alighted, a deafening explosion occurred," Magno told investigators.

The explosion came as PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao reiterated his call for Congress to immediately pass the antiterrorism bill.

"The proposed antiterrorism law will enable authorities to constrict, contain and control the threat of terrorism more effectively," said Lomibao in a statement.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, head of the PNP intelligence group, said the law would allow police to detain a terrorism suspect for at least 18 days without charges being filed against him. Current laws require police to release suspects held for 36 hours if no charges were filed against him. *Eldie S. Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Luige del Puerto, in Manila*

MILF, gov't still deadlocked on ancestral domain

COTABATO CITY—TOO MANY issues, too little time.

This was how a ranking Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) official described last week's negotiations between his group and the Philippine government in Kuala Lumpur.

The talks, which centered on the issue of ancestral domain, ended without substantial results.

Jun Mantawil, head of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said both sides failed to hammer out some "hot issues" contained in the consensus points on the ancestral domain issue that both panels agreed on in February.

Among these issues were on revenue sharing and other economic aspects of the future political territory that the government and the MILF expects to agree on.

"There were simply too many issues to handle in a limited time frame of barely two days," he said.

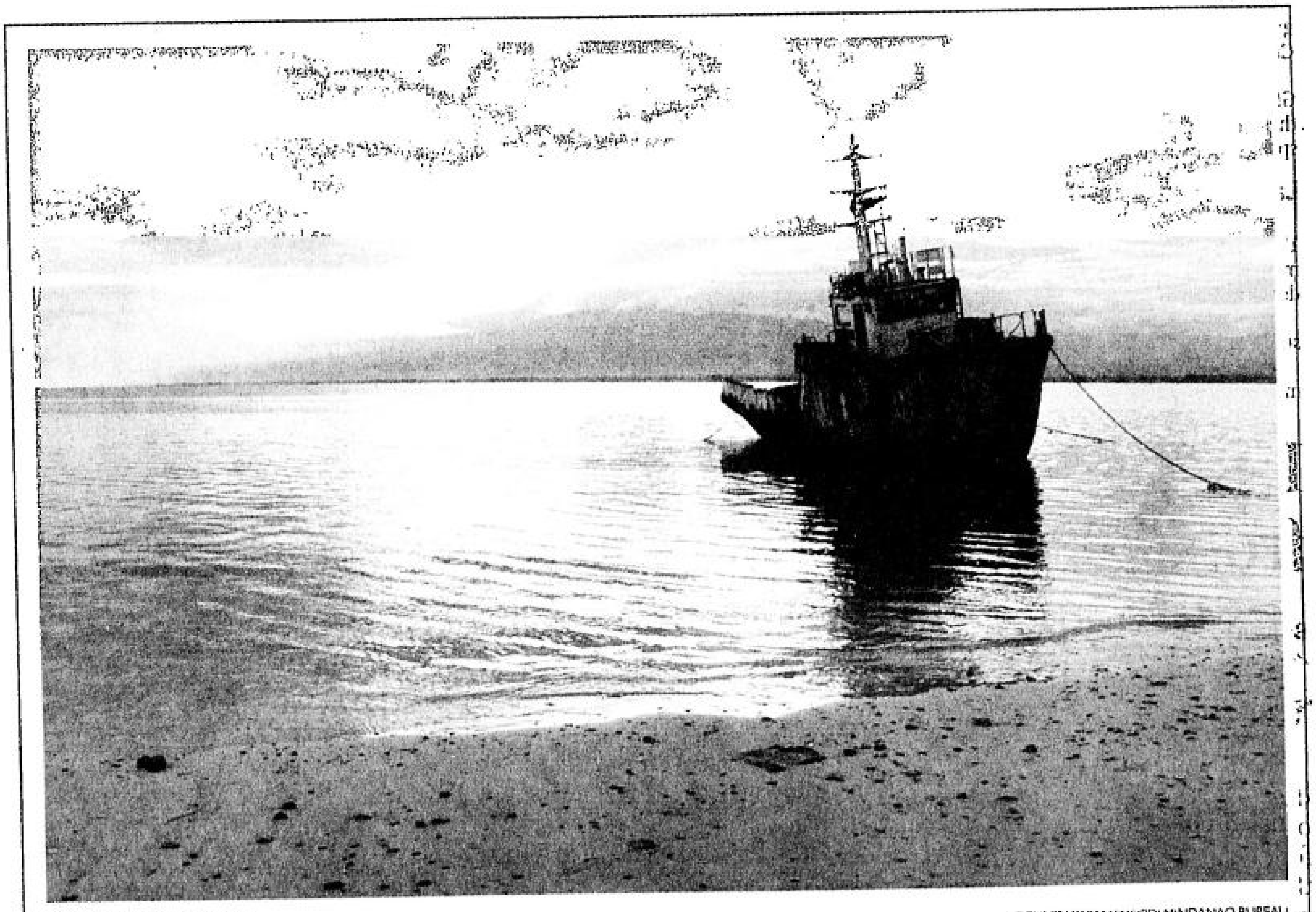
Asked to elaborate on the talks, Mantawil said there was really nothing to talk about because it was "inconclusive and both sides still have to meet again."

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal also declined to discuss the specifics of the recent talks.

But he said the MILF had already foreseen that the negotiations, held on March 21-22, "would end up nowhere."

"The MILF panel already knew that it was into the peak of the talks and, therefore, rough-sailing and hard bargaining were expected along the way," he said.

Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, said the government is talking to other stakeholders of the peace process in order "to feel and get their sentiments" on the agreement that many believed would redesign the landscape of Mindanao's peace and development program. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

FLOATING JUNK
A rusting fishing boat becomes a piece of junk on the shores of Punta Dumalag, Davao City.

ROUNDUP

Scholarship guidelines

THE BOARD of San Jose Mindoro Community Association in Canada (SJMAC) has released the guidelines for its scholarship fund for deserving students of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. Initial funds for the first year of implementation has been set at P150,000, according to a news release. All pre-qualified applicants should submit a 1,000-word essay on the question "What do you think should San Jose local government do to attract local and foreign tourists to visit the town of San Jose?" SJMAC is a private, nonprofit-volunteer-driven organization based in Ontario. For details, e-mail libet.bonilla@sjmac.org or ben.viguilla@sjmac.org.

Carabao fest in Calapan

CITY OF CALAPAN—On its 8th foundation anniversary, the city government celebrated its first "Sinkaw (Sining Kalabaw) Festival" from March 13 to 21. Mayor Carlos Brucal, who grew up as a farmer, said he wanted the city recognized for its attributes as an agricultural area and the carabao, as a symbol of life and culture, saved and its big potential to attract tourists underscored. The celebration featured, among others, an inter-barangay carabao mascot parade and a carabao painting contest.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cavite exec shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Drunken persons shot dead a Cavite government official and his companion inside a girlie bar in Trece Martires City over the weekend. Police said Manuel Altas, 41, city engineer of Trece Martires and resident of Barangay Inocencio, and Modesto Orpilla, 35, of Barangay De Ocampo, were having a drinking session inside a videoke bar when they engaged the group of suspects Michael Consumo, Richard Nieva and Michael Nextwell in a heated argument. He said the drunken men hurled empty bottles of beer against each other. Beaten, the suspects left the videoke bar and warned the victims that they would come back. Witnesses said that a few minutes later, the suspects came back armed with shotguns. Another companion, Roberto Sierra, 44, was wounded in the attack.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Motorcycle hits truck; 5 dead

COTABATO CITY—At least five persons died while a boy was wounded when a motorized tricycle smashed into an approaching cargo truck in Pigkawayan, North Cotabato on Saturday, according to a police report. Only three of the fatalities had been identified in the report. These were Bartolome Arkista, Danilo Jaime and Cherry Marquez. A boy, named Robert Jaime, was also injured in the accident, according to the report. It was not clear how he was related to Danilo.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gowns made of recyclables

ILLUSTRATION. ANTHONY MISTADES

NAUJAN, Oriental Mindoro—Evening gowns made of recyclable materials like plastics wowed the audience here on Saturday during the search for the Lakambini ng Kapayapaan. Organized by the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade, the search had an essay-writing portion aside from a question-and-answer part, making the contest criteria 50 percent intelligence and 50 percent beauty. Eight public schools from different towns competed.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Investment summit in Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—Research on power and energy, tourism, agribusiness, logistics and infrastructure and social development will highlight the first Oriental Mindoro Investment Summit on April 5-6 here. The summit is organized by the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), provincial government officials and and the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners. Bernardo Villegas, UA&P senior vice president, said a special feature of the summit is the tour package of "Lakbay Mindoro" so participants can check on the investment climate, the potential investment sites for wind, geothermal and hydroelectric power plants, and possible agribusiness and infrastructure ventures.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Communist services in the countryside

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) has been providing services to areas not reached by the government, according to Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao. The communist rebels have provided health services, embarked on a "literacy program" to help educate the poor, and helped increase productivity by providing livelihood to people in the countryside, Madlos said. The NPA has been growing, proof that it has been gaining support from the people.

Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

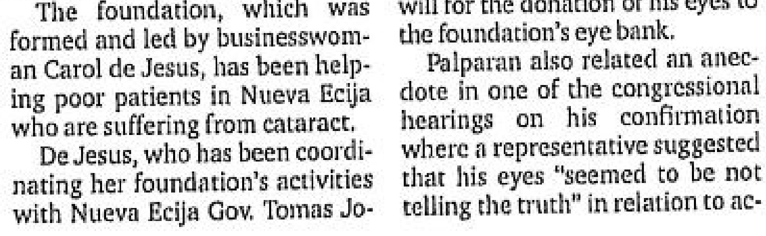
Ex-cameraman stabbed dead

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A former cameraman of ABS-CBN here was stabbed to death inside his *sari-sari* store early Monday morning. Police said the body of Eddie Erum was found with two fatal stab wounds, one of them in the heart. He said Erum's head was also hit with a hard object. Bucol said they were discounting robbery because the victim's cash collection worth P100,000 and his mobile phone were not taken.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palparan offers to donate eyes if he dies

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk



PALPARAN'S eyes

CABANATUAN CITY—SHOULD anything happen to him, controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the so-called "butcher" of political activists, wants his eyes donated to a local eye bank.

But would there be takers?

"*Baka katakutan ng makakakuha ang mga mata ko* (My eyes might strike fear in their recipients)," Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon, said.

Members of militant and party-list groups have blamed Palparan and his men for a string of killings that victimized political activists in his previous assignments in Mindoro and Samar and in Central Luzon, where he was assigned starting September last year.

Palparan, 55, who now wears eyeglasses, said a doctor who examined his eyes had said that these could still be useful despite his imperfect vision.

He announced his decision to donate his eyes when he spoke during the anniversary celebration of the Carol Foundation here on Thursday last week.

The foundation, which was formed and led by businesswoman Carol de Jesus, has been helping poor patients in Nueva Ecija who are suffering from cataract.

De Jesus, who has been coordinating her foundation's activities with Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III and a group of volunteer eye doctors from Metro Manila, said her foundation is putting up an eye bank in the province.

Palparan, who recently received the military's Distinguished Service Star for his anti-insurgency campaign, said he would sign a will for the donation of his eyes to the foundation's eye bank.

Palparan also related an anecdote in one of the congressional hearings on his confirmation where a representative suggested that his eyes "seemed to be not telling the truth" in relation to accusations of human rights violations against him.

"*Sabi niya okey naman daw akong makisama sa tao. Pero ang mga akusasyon ng mga militante ay mayroon daw katotohanan sa pamamagitan ng pagtingin at pagkilatis sa aking mga mata* (The representative said I can get along with people well. But she said the accusations of the militants seemed correct, judging from the way I look and it showed through my eyes)," he said.

Palparan said the prospective recipient might reject his eyes if he or she would know that it came from him.

But he said he was trying his best to build another image far from what was being pictured by the "enemies of the state" who wanted to discredit him.

"This time, I'm going around talking to people. I try to appear approachable and charming," he said.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Student leader's family seeks justice

By Bobby Q. Labalan
Irosin, Sorsogon

CRIS HUGO WANTED TO BE a priest, but his father, SPO1 Ciriaco Hugo, moved him out of the seminary, afraid that no one would carry on his name if his only son chose to become celibate.

The policeman of Irosin, Sorsogon had big dreams for Cris, foremost of which was to see him a successful family man.

After spending two years in high school at the Peñafrancia Seminary in Sorsogon City, the boy was transferred to the Gallanosa National High School (GNHS) in Irosin.

After graduation, Cris wanted to enroll at the University of the Philippines Baguio. Again, his father objected, noting how UP students become militants and activists.

Death

As a dutiful son, Cris relented. This March, he would have been among the graduating students of the Bicol University's College of Arts and Letters, with a degree in Bachelor of Arts, Major in Journalism. He would never have that chance of marching up the stage to receive his diploma.

Cris, the eldest among three siblings and barely 20 years old, was gunned down on the night of March 19 by a lone assailant while walking with a professor-friend in Albay District, Legazpi City. They had been discussing his upcoming in-company training (ICT) in Manila this summer.

Cris was the regional coordinator of the militant League of Filipino Students (LFS) and grand chancellor of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity in BU. He was said to be the youngest militant leader killed in Bicol.

The young victim sat in the national council of the LFS, which has chapters in various prominent colleges and universities, and high schools across the country.

Militant organizations allied with the student group pointed to the military as responsible for the death of Cris.

His father, however, said he could not be certain about the charge.

"It is not for us to speculate. Let the investigators do their job. All that we want is justice," Ciriaco told the INQUIRER in the vernacular.

Cris's mother Rowena, a teacher at the GNHS, said the family had sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation for a speedy probe.

Last meeting

Rowena said she last saw her son on March 17, a Friday, when he attended the parents' meeting in preparation for the graduating students' ICT.

She recalled how Cris had wanted her to stay with him that day.

After the meeting, she said, they went to the mall and the park, and Cris even asked her if she wanted to go to the movies. "It seemed that he didn't want me away from him," the grieving mother said.

"He wanted me to sleep at his boarding house. He asked me not to go home yet. I told him his father would be angry. But, he said, 'Even if Papa gets angry, he can do nothing about it,'" Rowena narrated.

Bad news

The woman recalled how Cris was so excited about his upcoming training. "He requested me to buy him some clothes and shoes. I never thought it would be the last time that I would see him alive."

The bad news came at around 1:30 a.m. on March 20 through a phone call from Rowena's sister-in-law, whose brother works as a doctor at the Bicol Regional Teaching and Training Hospital.

Her in-law informed them that Cris was at the hospital with bullet wounds. The family was never told that he was already dead.

The trip to the hospital, 86 kilometers away from Irosin, seemed an eternity for the Hugos. When they finally arrived, they saw Cris's younger sister Cerielene crying beside his body.

According to the NBI autopsy report, Cris had two bullet wounds in the breast and another near the armpit, inflicted by a .45 cal. pistol.

Rowena said she never thought her son would ever meet a violent death.

Cris had been a friendly and jolly person since he was a child. He had no known enemy, not even a death threat.

But being vigilant was a trait that he had shown even when he was still in high school, his mother said.

Rowena recalled an incident when Cris initiated a rally, complete with placards, at the GNHS to protest a school policy that he believed was not to the best interest of the students.

He would never keep silent on something he thought was wrong, she said.

Happy moments

His former classmates at the seminary, Albert Lee and Rommel Gacias, recalled happy moments with Cris. They described him as very supportive and good in class.

His vigilance and assertiveness were two characteristics that Cris nurtured even when he was already in college. Because of these, he figured in numerous antigovernment rallies and demonstrations.

Ciriaco admitted that he had knowledge of his son's involvement in progressive organizations and he would always remind him to stop mingling with them.

Once, the father related, he was summoned by Supt. Edgar Chavez, intelligence chief of the provincial police, regarding his son's activities.

At the time, Cris was at their home in Barangay San Juan, so he tagged him along and presented him to his superiors.

Campus leader

That encounter didn't seem to discourage Cris from continuing his work with the progressive organizations. He continued to join rallies in Albay.

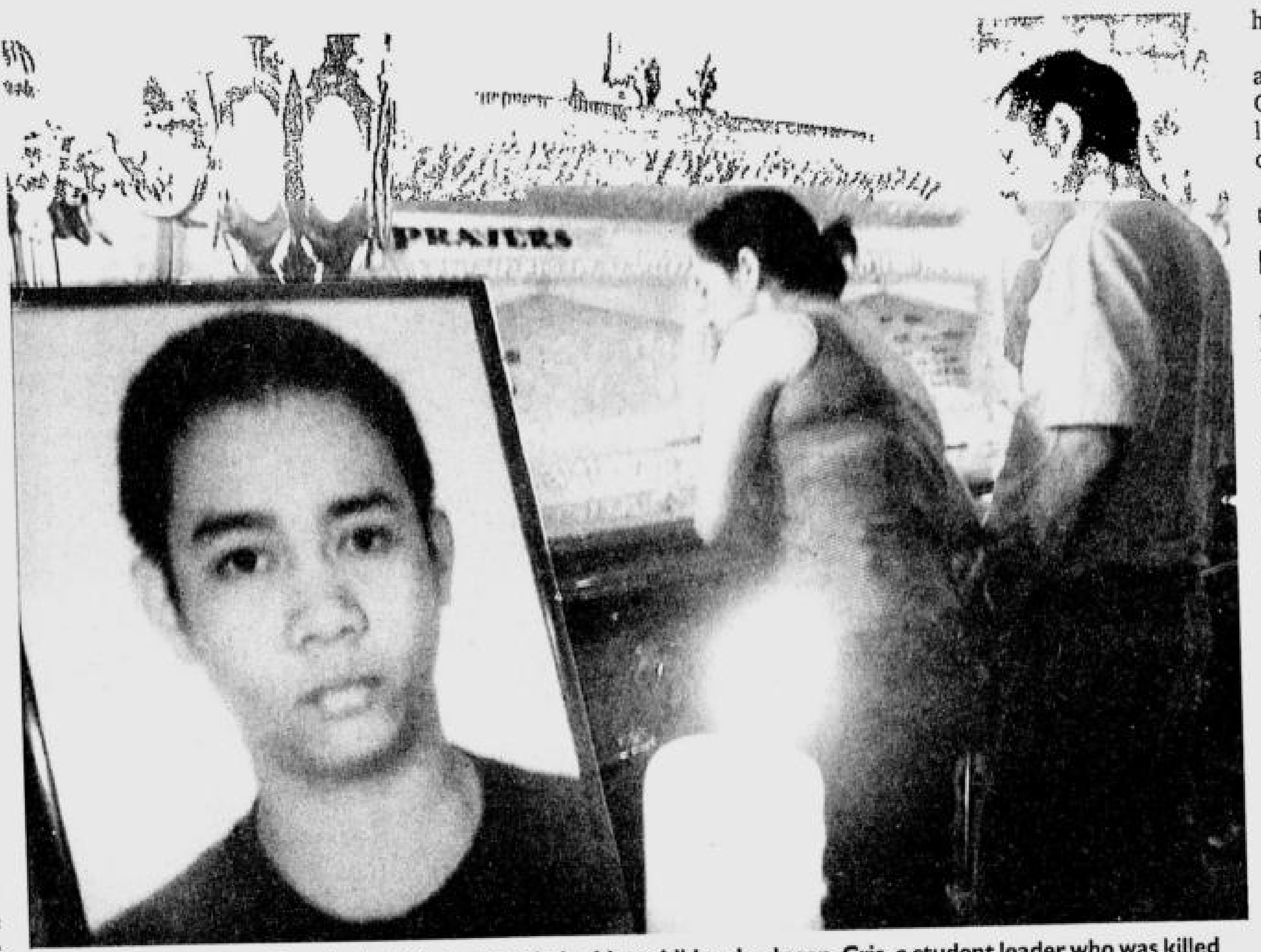
His classmates said that indeed Cris was one of the most vocal student leaders on the campus, but they never saw anything wrong with his activities.

Dan Orense, Cris's mentor and fraternity brother, described him as a "college student *na parang* Grade 6" (a college student who looked like a Grade 6 pupil).

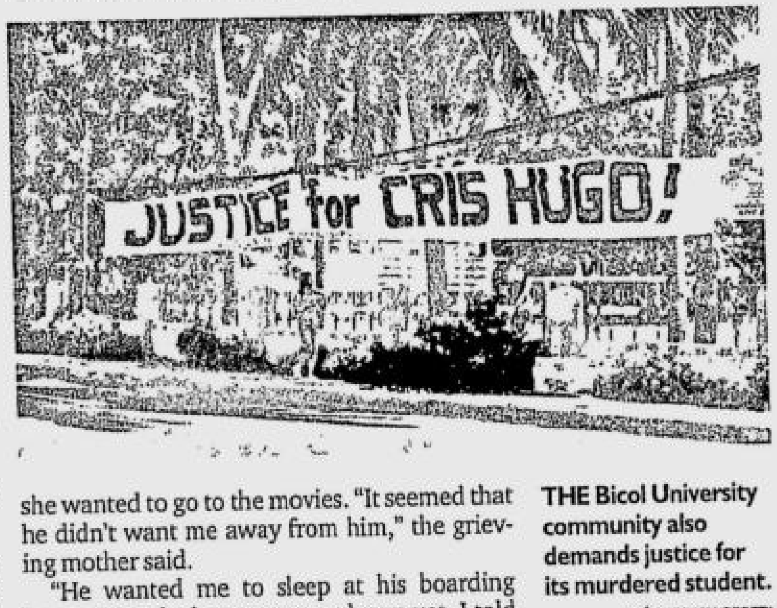
"Cris is a kind person, a typical homegrown person, but he was deep," he said.

"It was all brought about by his deep conviction for justice and for what is right, and perhaps, those who were behind his death saw in him the potentials of a leader who could ignite others into taking action against those in power," a close friend, who requested anonymity, said.

The BU community, the LFS, the APO, the Justice for Cris Movement, the Hugo family and the entire community would be one in demanding justice for Cris when he is laid to rest tomorrow.



ROWENA and Ciriaco Hugo look at the body of their eldest child and only son, Cris, a student leader who was killed by a lone gunman in Legazpi City on March 19.
NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA



THE Bicol University community also demands justice for its murdered student.
NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA

Domestic violence written off from village justice system

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Pili, Camarines Sur

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and children, which had long been silently accepted as a domestic problem, is now written off from the village justice system following the implementation of the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9262).

Danton Vibar, Camarines Sur director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, said all cases relating to abuses against women and children that were commonly settled at the village level because of their domestic character, were now ordered submitted to the regular courts for prosecution.

Vibar warned village officials not to entertain complaints of this nature as they could be held criminally and administratively liable if they did so.

He advised them to refer these cases to higher authorities and refrain from facilitating their settlement because the perpetrators are relatives of the victims or the problem is considered domestic.

RA 9262 has effectively written off cases of domestic violence from the jurisdiction of the village justice system. Village officials have been ordered to directly assist victims to file their complaints at the prosecutors' office or the regular courts, Vibar said.

Violence

The law defines violence against women and their children as "any act or series of acts by any person against the woman which result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering or economic abuse, including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty."

It also considers it a crime for any person who tries to force a woman or her child to engage in a behavior that they have the right to desist from.

It prohibits persons from trying to restrict or restricting the freedom of movement of a woman or her child or conduct by force or threat of force, physical or other harm, or intimidation directed against the woman or her child.

According to the law, physical violence consists of acts that cause physical injuries while sexual violence includes any act which is sexual in nature committed against a woman or her child, like rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness and treating a woman or her child as a sex object.

Economic abuse

RA 9262 has also included economic abuse in the crime of violence against women and children.

Among the acts considered economic abuse are withdrawal of financial support, preventing the woman from engaging in legitimate profession or activity, deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources, destroying household property, and controlling the victim's own money or property.

Even stalking, damage to property, repeated verbal abuse, and marital infidelity are now considered crimes of violence against women and children under psychological abuse, which RA 9262 defines as "acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering."

Domingo Briones, provincial president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, said the government had already directed all village officials to comply with the implementation requirements of the law.

An orientation seminar was also held recently regarding the implementing rules.

The village chief or council member is authorized to intervene to prevent the perpetrator of violence from harming the victim, Briones said.

COME AND VISIT!
the biggest motoring event of the year!
CAMPI presents
MANILA International AUTO SHOW
REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
2006
WSI
April 06-09, 2006
World Trade Center Metro Manila
10AM to 10PM
AUDI
HONDA
HYUNDAI
ISUZU
KIA
TOYOTA
VOLVO
PORSCHE
SSANGYONG
Supported by
AutoREVIEW
evo
the post
Official Radio Station
Organized by: WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL
Tel: (632) 534 3615 or 534 1332 Fax: (632) 533 2026 Email: info@worldbex.com
Website: www.worldbex.com; www.manilaautoshow.com.ph
Entrance fee: Php. 50.00

TOP OF THE CLASS. President Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Cadet first class Benjamin Balais, class valedictorian, during yesterday's graduation of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite. LYN RILLON

You've lost right to free speech, GMA tells cops

By Christine O. Avendaño

SILANG, CAVITE—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo told new police graduates yesterday that they have no right to free speech and warned them against joining groups out to remove her from power.

As in last week's graduation rites at the Philippine Military Academy, Ms Arroyo employed the same carrot-and-stick approach in her speech yesterday to this year's 177 graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy here, promising them housing and other benefits and warning they would be punished for disloyalty.

Talking about the need for discipline, Ms Arroyo recited a couple of lines from the classic "The Charge of the Light Brigade": "But theirs is not to reason why/ theirs is but to do or die,"

The Supreme Court has ruled that "if you have a right to hold guns, you surrender your right to free speech," the President said. "That is what is meant by discipline of uniformed services."

She said she was elated by PNPA Class 2006 valedictorian Cdt. 1st Class Benjamin Balais' speech, which dwelt on the need for police officers to "reserve the sanctity of the chain of command and to stick to their mandate as public safety officers."

"Therefore, be wary of vested interests behind seemingly attractive promises of reforms but actually, they put to great risk the future of the nation," the President said.

Uniformed adventurism

Ms Arroyo warned that any more coup attempts or "uniformed adventurism" would have severe repercussions on the economy, "and as I said last week, we cannot keep sweeping disloyalty under the rug."

Saying that a bright future awaited the graduates, Ms Arroyo said policemen stand to benefit from a recent P1,000-increase in monthly allowances given to all government employees as well as from a government housing project.

She said she has asked Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno to inspect police camps throughout the country to see if portions of the land could be used for housing.

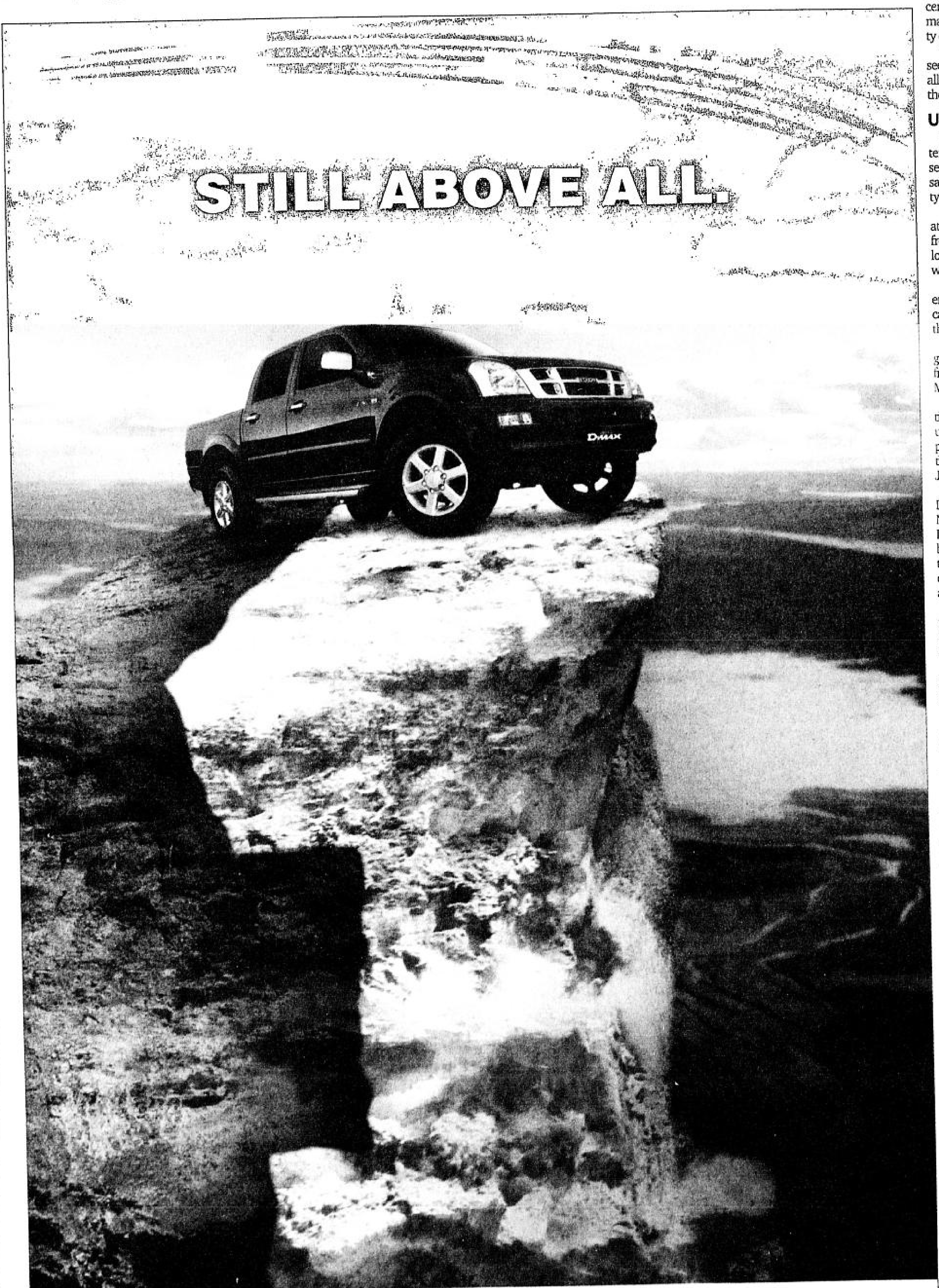
She said policemen, prison wardens and guards, fire inspectors and fire officers will benefit from a 1,600-hectare housing project in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Located in Silang, Cavite, the Philippine National Police Academy is the country's premier educational and training institution for policemen. It provides a four-year program for future officers of the PNP, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The PNPA was created in 1977 by Presidential Decree No. 1184, also known as the Integrated National Police Personnel Professionalization Law. It was first located in Fort Bonifacio and its first batch of graduates consisted of 50 cadets. During the last academic year, PNPA had around 900 cadets training at Camp Castañeda in Cavite, the academy's home since 1994.

It was elevated to a state university in 1981, making its cadets full government scholars. They receive allowances and a monthly pay of P12,419.

PNPA started admitting female cadets in 1993. *With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*



THANK YOU FOR MAKING US THE #1 PICK-UP BRAND!*

Still a commanding 1st in the overall pick-up category. Still with the unbeatable diesel engine technology that drives to excel. Still built to last and to lead. There is still no other name that stands tall above all.

*Based on combined volume of all ISUZU pick-up models. 2005 TMA-CAMPI Sales Report

ISUZU D-MAX

ISUZU
Your responsible partner
www.isuzuphil.com

Children sired by Japanese pa get citizenship

TOKYO—A Japanese court in a landmark judgement ruled Wednesday that a law which refuses nationality to children of unmarried Japanese men and foreign women is unconstitutional.

The law refuses nationality to children born to an unmarried foreign mother and Japanese father unless the father recognizes the child as his before the birth.

Japan, which has thousands of foreign female entertainers from the Philippines and elsewhere, is believed to have hundreds such illegitimate children. Judge Hiroyuki Kanno of the Tokyo District Court was hearing a suit brought on behalf of nine children of Japanese fathers and Filipina mothers. He said it was unconstitutional not to grant nationality to a child by reason "of their parents' illegitimate marital status." The same court earlier ruled that a Japanese-Filipino boy should be given nationality but a higher court overturned the ruling. 'The higher court wouldn't be able to reverse today's judgement unless it has some substantial reason to explain to do so," said Hironori Kondo, one of the lawyers representing the plaintiffs. *AFP*

LOTTO RESULT

EZ2	SUERTRES
23 2	3 3 7

FOUR DIGIT

2 1 4 3

(Result above in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45

20 25 26 32 38 41

₱28,176,751.80

GET THE LATEST LOTTO RESULTS!
Text LOTTO to 299
Open to all SMART subscribers. Only P2.50 per message.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Pacquiao a no-show for 3rd time in courtroom /A20

- Alleged chemical leak in Navotas factory downs 7 persons /A20
- Rizal High valedictorian offers 14 medals to inspiration —her mother /A20

14 cops in businessman's accidental shooting face raps

By Luige A. del Puerto

LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER policemen shot and wounded a businessman by mistake in Pasig City, Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao has approved the filing of formal charges against them.

Fourteen officers of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) now face charges of "less serious neglect of duty" for allegedly violating Rule 8 of police operational procedures. On top of this, seven of the 14 face charges of grave misconduct, while a police investigative body has recommended that three of the officers be suspended for 90 days.

Procedure

Rule 8 of the police operational procedure states: "Moving vehicles may not be fired upon solely to disable them. The driver or occupant of a moving vehicle may be fired upon if the police has probable cause to believe that the suspects pose an imminent danger of death to the police or other persons, and use of firearms does not create danger to the public that outweighs the likely benefits of its use. The nature of damage sustained by the car of the businessman, Randolph Clareto, indicates the use of excessive force, endangering the lives of innocent people to the prejudice of the public," Director Marcelo Ele said in a statement yesterday.

Investigation

Lomibao earlier tasked Ele's office, the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, to investigate the March 7 incident.

That night, officers from the TMG were looking for the occupants of a Toyota Altis who had allegedly shot it out with another group of policemen in Cubao, Quezon City less than an hour earlier.

The policemen earlier received information that the car had been sighted on Lanuza Street near Valle Verde in Pasig City. They went to the scene, took up strategic positions in the area, but shot the wrong car, a Toyota Vios driven by Clareto. TMG officers later admitted their mistake, and said they thought it was the same car. Both cars had a silver color.

Their superiors also quoted the TMG cops as saying that Clareto did not stop when they flagged him down, prompting them to shoot him. Clareto drove himself to the hospital after he was wounded in the leg and shoulder.

The officers charged with less serious neglect of duty were P02 Mario Aresta, P02 Renato Salinas, P01 Jeffrey Abiad, P01 Joseph Martin, P03 Jerry Atanacio, P01 Raxciel Naprato, P01 Reynaldo Pedregoza, SP02 Jaimede Guzman, P02 Marcelino Dacoylo, P02 Arthur Olosan, P02 Gari Delgado, P02 Norman Interino, P02 Ruben Mission and P02 Michael Lescano.

The DIDM had found "probable cause" to initiate summary hearing proceedings against the officers, the crew of four TMG mobile units, according Ele. The use of forces was unnecessary because the car's occupant was "unarmed," he added.

Separate charge

Apart from facing charges for violating the PNP's operational procedures, Ele also recommended a separate charge of "grave misconduct" against Aresta, Salinas, Abiad, Martin, Atanacio, Naprato and Pedregoza for alleged "reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property."

He also recommended that Aresta, Salinas and Abiad be placed on a 90-day preventive suspension. The trio also face charges of "conducting operation without authority" as well as charges of "physical injuries."

One-stop shops for mall inventory

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS would be setting up makeshift "one-stop shops" at the 168 Shopping Mall in Binondo, Manila to facilitate the inventory and hearings on untaxed imported items it had discovered in a recent raid.

With the establishment of the one-stop shops, the items would no longer be brought to the bureau's warehouses but could remain in the mall premises.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the new setup, requested earlier by tenants, would fast-track the bureau's inventory and assessment of the untaxed items.

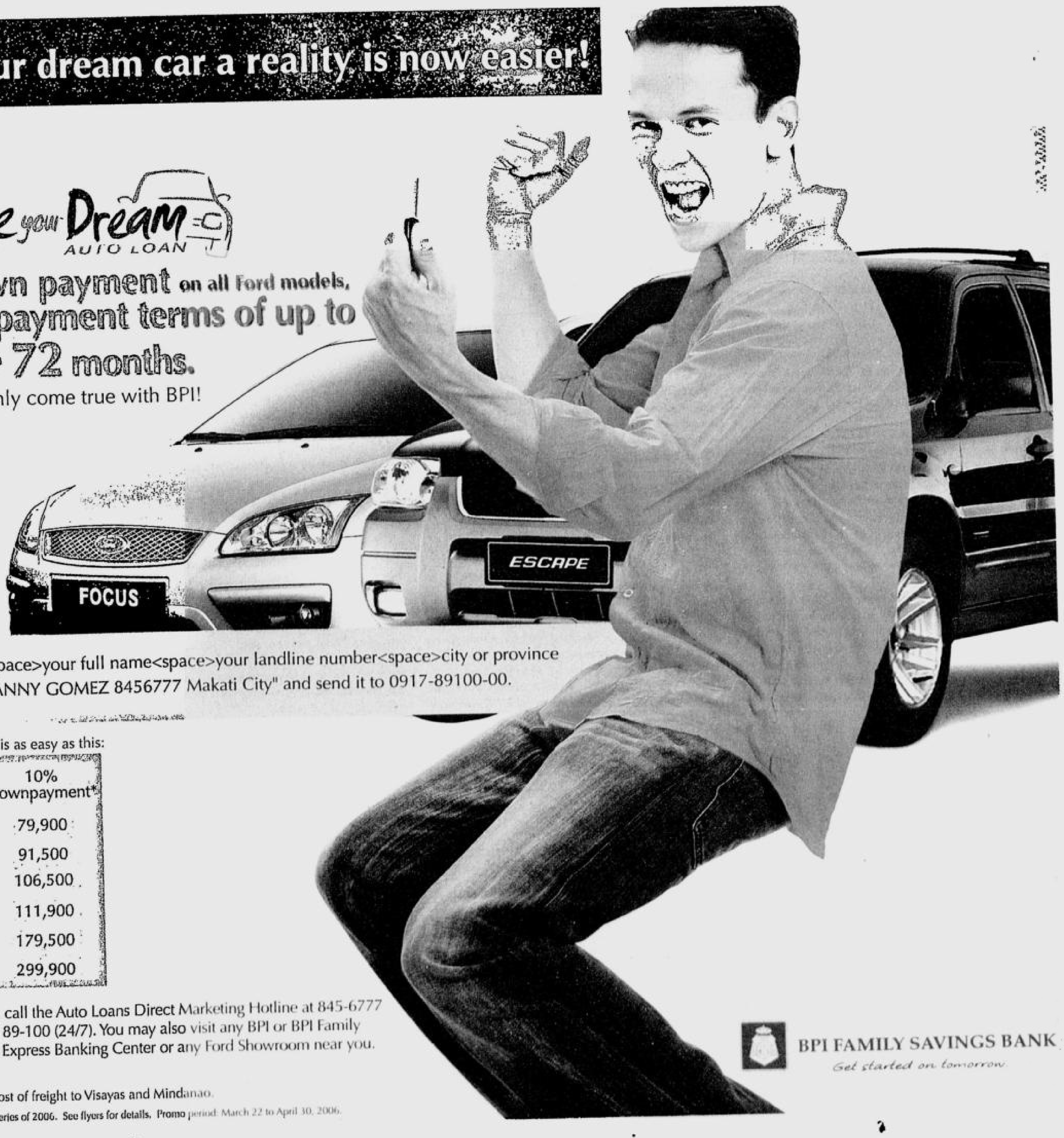
"Since the necessary customs officials would be at the one-stop shops, the tenants need not go to the BOC office for the hearings on their items, and we would not need to haul the goods to the warehouses. The processes would be faster," Morales said yesterday.

The shops would be manned by customs appraisers, lawyers and personnel. During the hearings, the tenants are expected to explain where they obtained their imported goods and whether or not they paid taxes. If not, they would have to pay these, apart from penalties.

The BOC would set up the one-stop shops on each floor of the mall as soon as Morales releases the memorandum order prescribing the guidelines for the resumption of their operations any time this week.

Customs officials are still conducting an inventory of the suspected smuggled goods at the mall, which has about 800 tenants. Customs and Manila police have been guarding the mall 24 hours a day to ensure that the tenants would not sneak out their wares.

The BOC raided the 168 mall two weeks ago upon the complaint of the Philippine Retailers Association for unfair trade practices.



Making your dream car a reality is now easier!

Drive your Dream AUTO LOAN

10% down payment on all Ford models, stretched payment terms of up to 6 years or 72 months.

This dream can only come true with BPI!

Simply text AUTO<space>your full name<space>your landline number<space>city or province
example: "AUTO MANNY GOMEZ 8456777 Makati City" and send it to 0917-89100-00.

Owning your dream car is as easy as this:

Model	10% Downpayment*
Focus 1.6 MT	79,900
Ranger 4x2 MT	91,500
Everest 4x2 MT	106,500
Escape 4x2 AT	111,900
Explorer 4x2 AT	179,500
Expedition AT	299,900

For more information, call the Auto Loans Direct Marketing Hotline at 845-6777 during office hours or 89-100 (24/7). You may also visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch, Express Banking Center or any Ford Showroom near you.

* Prices do not include cost of freight to Visayas and Mindanao.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0600 Series of 2006. See flyers for details. Promo period: March 22 to April 30, 2006.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow

Navotas factory mishap downs 7 persons

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FACTORY WORKER SUFFERED severe burns while six persons were hospitalized when a tank containing ammonia blew a valve in a big ice factory at the Navotas Fish Port Complex yesterday morning.

Vicente Marituan 36, an employee of the Fish Port Ice Plant Inc., was fixing the valve when it burst, releasing a "large quantity of ammonia," a police investigator said. Marituan suffered severe burns in his arms, legs and groin while five others complained of tightness in the chest and shortness of breath after they inhaled the chemical. A man who lived near the plant was brought to the Tondo Medical Center after he experienced the same symptoms.

Manny a no-show again in courtroom

By DJ Yap

BEFORE HE MEETS MEXICAN OSCAR Larios in a boxing match this July, Manny Pacquiao should first face his legal bout, said Joanna Rose Bacosa, his alleged former girlfriend and mother of a two-year-old boy she claims is the boxing champ's son. "I hope he'll be man enough to face us before his next fight," Bacosa said.

Pacquiao was again a no-show at yesterday's hearing at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court where Bacosa has filed charges of violating the law protecting women and children from violence against him.

Bacosa's lawyer, Victor Rodriguez, said, "Ordinarily, a person who is innocent is eager to face his accuser. But if he's guilty, then he will exhaust all legal remedies to avoid a meeting."

Bacosa, who has accused Pacquiao of refusing to support their child and even threatening to have the boy kidnapped if she went to the courts, submitted her reply to Pacquiao's counteraffidavit yesterday. The boxer earlier denied Bacosa's charges but neither confirmed nor denied having an affair with her. He has avoided meeting his accuser and their alleged son in previous hearings.

In her reply, Bacosa said Pacquiao's denial of having engaged in a romantic relationship with her ran counter to his claim that he had given sufficient support to the child.

If the boxer did not believe the boy was his child, then it was strange that he should give financial support to them, she pointed out.

RIZAL High School valedictorian Mary Katherine Macalalad offers her 14 medals to her mother, Loreta, whom she called her "major inspiration." RODEL ROTONI

Valedictorian's 14 medals offered to hardworking mom

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ALTHOUGH IT WAS THEIR CHILDREN who were the stars of the day, it was the parents who received all the accolades at yesterday's graduation rites at the Rizal High School in Pasig City, one of the biggest schools in the country. The class valedictorian, Mary Katherina Macalalad, led the other graduates in thanking their parents as she pulled her mother, Loreta, onstage to give her the 14 medals she received. "I owe her all that I have. These medals are my achievements but without her efforts and guidance, these will not be possible," said the 16-year-old girl, who had topped her class with a general average of 94.21 percent.

Among the medals she received were from President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senators Franklin Drilon and Francis Pangilinan, and Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

METROBRIEFS

Man gets life for shabu

A MAN will spend a lifetime in prison for selling 0.04 gram of metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu worth P200. The Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 164 has sentenced Arsenio Cortez to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of selling shabu during a buy-bust operation in 2003. Judge Librado Correa also ordered Cortez, a resident of Flores Street, Pateros, to pay a fine of P500,000. Court records said police conducted a buy-bust operation on Oct. 26, 2003 after receiving information about Cortez's alleged peddling of shabu in Barangay Buting, Pasig City. Cortez, however, claimed that the police had framed him. But the court found merit in the testimonies of the police operatives. "Between the positive testimonies of the arresting officers and the denial of the accused, positive testimonies of the former prevail," Correa said in his decision. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

QC guidebook out soon

COMING soon: A guidebook featuring Quezon City's charms to direct local and foreign tourists to its famous spots and landmarks. Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has directed the local Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office to prepare a "Tourist Guide to QC." Belmonte asked his special assistant and CTAO officer-in-charge Victoria Loanzon to take charge of compiling materials for the publication. Under the mayor's proposal, the guidebook will feature the city's popular destinations like cultural and historical spots, as well as malls, hotels, schools and hospitals. It will include pictures, maps, telephone numbers and other information. Belmonte said the publication of the tourist guide would be a joint effort between the city government and the private sector. *DJ Yap*

Holcim 'galing Mason Award honors a real winner

It's a classic scene: the winner is announced, he looks around for a few seconds, then it finally sinks in…"It's me!" March 16, 2006, a man stood with pride and tears, as the most outstanding mason in the country.

Sergio A. Barliso was among 91 nominees from civic and professional organizations, LGUs, and NGOs, who competed for the first Holcim 'galing Mason Award. Sired by Holcim Philippines, Inc. and intended as a tribute to Filipino masons, the annual Holcim 'galing Mason Award searches nationwide for the mason who not only excels in masonry skills but also may become a living inspiration to his fellow masons, as a professional member of the construction industry and model citizen with a strong sense of family.

The Holcim 'galing Mason Award is one of the elements of the Holcim 'galing Mason Program, which is designed to provide subsidized training in environment safety and work ethics, and skills enhancement worthy of certification by the TESDA. Ultimately, the program aims to enhance the skills and image of Filipino masons, giving them that competitive edge for sustainable opportunities. The competition is implemented by Holcim Philippines in partnership with TESDA, NUBCW, and the PCA.

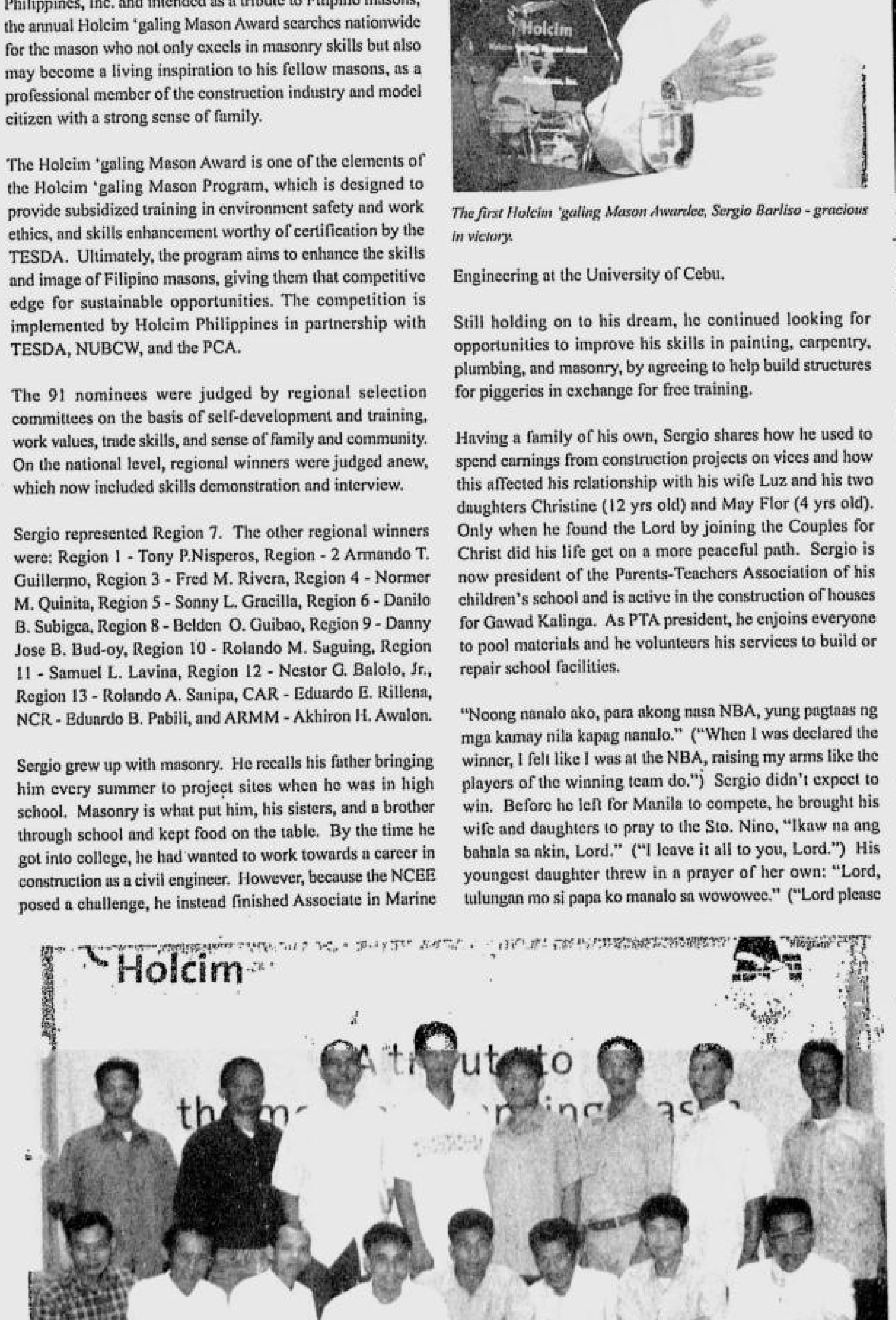
The 91 nominees were judged by regional selection committees on the basis of self-development and training, work values, trade skills, and sense of family and community. On the national level, regional winners were judged anew, which now included skills demonstration and interview.

Sergio represented Region 7. The other regional winners were: Region 1 - Tony P.Nisperos, Region - 2 Armando T. Guillermo, Region 3 - Fred M. Rivera, Region 4 - Normer M. Quinita, Region 5 - Sonny L. Gracilla, Region 6 - Danilo B. Subigca, Region 8 - Belden O. Guibao, Region 9 - Danny Jose B. Bud-oy, Region 10 - Rolando M. Saguing, Region 11 - Samuel L. Lavina, Region 12 - Nestor G. Balolo, Jr., Region 13 - Rolando A. Sanipa, CAR - Eduardo E. Rillena, NCR - Eduardo B. Pabili, and ARMM - Akhiron H. Awalon.

Sergio grew up with masonry. He recalls his father bringing him every summer to project sites when he was in high school. Masonry is what put him, his sisters, and a brother through school and kept food on the table. By the time he got into college, he had wanted to work towards a career in construction as a civil engineer. However, because the NCEE posed a challenge, he instead finished Associate in Marine Engineering at the University of Cebu.

The first Holcim 'galing Mason Awardee, Sergio Barliso - gracious in victory.

Paul O'Callaghan expresses the commitment of Holcim to build foundations for society's future.



Finalists represented all 16 regions of the country. Sergio Barliso is at extreme right, front row.

Still holding on to his dream, he continued looking for opportunities to improve his skills in painting, carpentry, plumbing, and masonry, by agreeing to help build structures for piggeries in exchange for free training.

Having a family of his own, Sergio shares how he used to spend earnings from construction projects on vices and how this affected his relationship with his wife Luz and his two daughters Christine (12 yrs old) and May Flor (4 yrs old). Only when he found the Lord by joining the Couples for Christ did his life get on a more peaceful path. Sergio is now president of the Parents-Teachers Association of his children's school and is active in the construction of houses for Gawad Kalinga. As PTA president, he enjoins everyone to pool materials and he volunteers his services to build or repair school facilities.

"Noong nanalo ako, para akong nasa NBA, yung pagtaas ng mga kamay nila kapag nanalo." ("When I was declared the winner, I felt like I was at the NBA, raising my arms like the players of the winning team do.") Sergio didn't expect to win. Before he left for Manila to compete, he brought his wife and daughters to pray to the Sto. Nino, "Ikaw na ang bahala sa akin, Lord." ("I leave it all to you, Lord.") His youngest daughter threw in a prayer of her own: "Lord, tulungan mo si papa ko manalo sa wowowee." ("Lord please help my papa win in wowowee.") His wife hardly slept when he called to tell her he made it.

Sergio takes pride in a technique he has developed in tiling. According to him, he has been asked to teach his technique. Not one to impose his style, he observes how others do tiling, and then shows them his way. He leaves it up to them to decide which technique to use.

He would like to see the country with the smoothest roads. "Gusto ko gumawa ng kalsada na makinis para pagdating ng mga turista, maganda ang madadaanan nila." ("I would like to help build smooth roads for tourists to experience smooth travel.")

His winning the Holcim 'galing Mason Award may open doors to employment abroad, but the mere mention of this possibility makes him start crying. Between sobs, he said that he would rather work here on whatever jobs he can get, than be miles away from his wife and daughters. He recalls how, years ago, his daughter overheard him praying, "Lord, tulungan mo ako maghanap ng trabaho abroad." ("Lord, help me find a job abroad.") Immediately, his daughter prayed beside him, "Lord, huwag na lang." ("Lord, please don't.")

Sergio is a man of humble ambition - "mapag-aral ko yung mga anak ko, mapakita sa panginoon na maganda yung nagawa ko sa asawa at anak ko." ("Put my children through school, and be able to show the Lord how well I have treated my wife and children.")

When asked what he would like to share with his fellow masons, Sergio says, "Husayin ang trabaho. Kung sa lotto nanalo ka dahil sa swerte, ang pinakamagaling yung nanalo ka dahil sa sikap mo, at dahil sa pagdasal sa Panginoon. Yan ang mas magandang panalo." ("Do the work well. Winning in lotto is sheer luck; what is more meaningful is to win through hard work, and because you asked the Lord for guidance.")

Holcim Philippines Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Paul O'Callaghan, and Las Pinas City Congresswoman Cynthia Villar awarded the trophy, plaques, and cash prizes to the national and regional winners. On March 18, Sergio was further honored when he was presented before the foreign delegates to the International Federation of Asia and Western Pacific Constructors Association (IFAWPCA) Second General Assembly at the Harbour Garden, Westin Philippine Plaza. In introducing Sergio, Mr. Manolito Madrasto, Secretary General of IFAWPCA and Executive Director the Philippine Constructors Association, acknowledged that this is the very first time such a recognition for masons is being awarded.

Precious gifts from BOC

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

GOOD NEWS FOR the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

The Bureau of Customs will soon donate confiscated motor vehicles and seized shipments of used clothes to the two agencies.

I bumped into Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday. He told me he had a meeting earlier in the day with DSWD officials and he decided the department needed motor vehicles and a big stock of used clothes for disaster victims.

I suggested he also donate some vehicles and also used clothes to the PNRC that is doing a great job of helping disaster victims. Morales said he would.

* * *

Morales told me nonperforming customs collectors are being replaced in their posts by new ones who can do a better job of revenue collection.

He said the following collectors were about to be replaced, if they haven't been replaced yet: Edward Baltazar of San Fernando Port, Carlos So of the Port of Manila, Lourdes Mangaoang of Cebu Port, William Reyes of Surigao Port, Roberto Sacramento of Cagayan de Oro, John Tan of Davao, and Ronnie Silvestre of Clark.

So has been reassigned to the Office of the Commissioner.

The other nonperformers will soon be replaced, Morales said.

I asked the customs chief why Mangaoang, who had a collection deficit of 7.8 percent from the January-March 23 period, continues to hold her post. Morales refused to comment.

Mangaoang's continued stay at the Cebu Port, despite her inefficiency, has caused demoralization in the bureau.

One customs source said the petite Mangaoang has caught the fancy of a Department of Finance official. The customs bureau is under the Department of Finance.

* * *

Is Insp. Elmer Santiago of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) a protector or a porch-climber?

Esther Inciong said Santiago and his men cleaned out her house in Taguig of appliances when they raided the place.

The appliances included a laptop, a dining table made of narra, an electric stove, a casserole, a shower heater and a jewelry-making machine.

Santiago and his men didn't have a warrant when they entered the house. Ms Inciong said she doesn't have any criminal case. She said she wasn't involved in any crime, either.

Santiago, a graduate of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), is not a member of any police operating unit.

He is with the regional headquarters support group (RHSG), a unit where problem cops are assigned.

Santiago's PNPA classmates are already chief inspectors (major) and superintendents (lieutenant colonel), while he's still at the bottom of the officers' ladder. I was told the reason for this is that he's a scalawag.

Then why is he still in the service?

Bush's chief of staff Andrew Card resigns

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush, under the pressure of a popularity slump, rang in the first major administration change of his second term on Tuesday after his trusted chief of staff, Andrew Card, resigned.

Card, 58, is one of the longest-serving White House chiefs of staff ever and famously whispered to Bush on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001 that New York had been attacked with hijacked planes.

He will be replaced by another administration insider, White House budget chief Joshua Bolten, Bush said.

Bush has come under intense pressure in recent weeks from his Republican Party to shake up the administration, with the US public increasingly opposed to the Iraq war, angry at the slow response to Hurricane Katrina and wary after a White House scandal over the leaking of a CIA agent's identity to the media.

"Earlier this month, Andy Card came to me and raised the possibility of stepping down as chief of staff," Bush said.

"After five and a half years, he thought it might be time to return to private life. This past weekend, I accepted Andy's resignation," Bush said, with Card and Bolten at his side.

Card is the most important change to his administration since the start of the president's second term in January 2005.

In early March Gale Norton, Bush's controversial Interior Secretary, announced her departure from the cabinet, saying she wanted to return to the private sector. Her replacement has not been announced.

Opposition Democrats decried Card's departure Tuesday as presidential tinkering when, they said, major surgery was required. *AFP*

Protests in France turn violent

PARIS—FRANCE WAS RACKED BY strikes and demonstrations that turned violent on Tuesday, the latest act in a nationwide political and social drama aimed at forcing the government to rescind a new youth labor law.

A 36-hour strike, which began Monday night, set the stage for demonstrations in more than 250 towns and cities across the country that brought more than a million people into the streets, according to the police. Some of the labor unions put the figure much higher—at close to 3 million.

The worst violence occurred in the heart of Paris as the demonstrations were winding down and groups of youths confronted riot police. One police officer was reported seriously injured when a large firecracker thrown by protesters exploded in his face. Police eventually turned to tear gas and water cannon to clear the protesters away.

The turnout was the largest since protests against the new law began last month, gradually backing Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin into a corner. France's students and unions are demanding that he rescind the law, which he pushed through parliament without consulting the public.

The law is intended to encourage the hiring of people under 26 by allowing employers to dismiss them without cause within two years.

"Its historic," said Bernard Thibault, the leader of the giant left-wing CGT workers' union, of the turnout. He added, "For us there is just one outcome and that is withdrawal of this reform."

The strikes that formed the backdrop to the protests disrupted aspects of daily life from transportation to services. Many of the country's universities, schools, post offices, banks, government offices, shops and unemployment bureaus were closed or at least worked more slowly than usual.

The Eiffel Tower was closed. French newspapers were printed but not distributed. Mail was not delivered. The state-run all-news radio station, France-Info, aired only music. The Paris National Opera even canceled its ballet performances Tuesday evening.

Still, it was a strike of half-measures. In Paris, 70 percent of the subways and buses were running normally. So were two-thirds of the high-speed TGV trains and half the other train services throughout the country. A third of flights from French airports were canceled, but most were domestic routes.

Strikes and demonstrations are part of the fabric of French society. But this protest movement, which began three weeks ago, is crucial for two reasons. The political stakes are high; De Villepin's presidential hopes hang in the balance as do the current government's ability to make serious changes to the country's social welfare system. *New York Times News Service*

Jesus' image of crucifixion may be wrong, says study

PARIS—THE IMAGE OF THE CRUCIFIXION, one of the most powerful emblems of Christianity, may be quite erroneous, according to a study which says there is no evidence to prove Jesus was crucified in this manner.

Around the world, in churches, on the walls of Christian homes, on crucifixes worn as pendants, in innumerable books, paintings and movies, Jesus Christ is seen nailed to the cross by his hands and feet, with his head upwards and arms outstretched.

But a paper published by Britain's prestigious Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) says this image has never been substantiated in fact.

Christ could have been crucified in any one of many ways, all of which would have affected the causes of his death, it says.

"The evidence available demonstrates that people were crucified in different postures and affixed to crosses using a variety of means," said one of the authors, Piers Mitchell of Imperial College London.

"Victims were not necessarily positioned head up and nailed through the feet from front to back, as is the imagery in Christian churches." The authors do not express any doubt on the act of Jesus' crucifixion itself. But they note that the few eyewitness descriptions available today of crucifixions in the 1st century AD show the Romans had a broad and cruel imagination.

Their crucifixion methods probably evolved over time and depended on the social status of the victim and on the crime he allegedly committed, says the paper in April's issue of the RSM journal.

The cross could be erected "in any one of a range of orientations," with the victim sometimes head-up, sometimes head-down or in different postures.

Sometimes he was nailed to the cross by his genitals, sometimes the hands and feet were attached to the side of the cross and not the front, or affixed with cords rather than nails.

"If crucified head-up, the victim's weight may also have been supported on a small seat. This was believed to prolong the time it took a man to die," says the study, co-authored by Matthew Masien, also of Imperial College London's medicine faculty.

Crucifixion was widely practiced by the Romans to punish criminals and rebels, but if the empire ever circulated instructions for the soldiers who carried out the gruesome task, none has survived today. *AFP*

US students join immigration protest

LOS ANGELES—THOUSANDS OF HIGH school pupils across the United States boycotted classes for the third straight day Tuesday, hoping to derail a proposed law that would criminalize millions of illegal immigrants.

Mainly Hispanic students in California, Nevada and Texas walked out of classes in a snowballing protest against proposed law reforms that have sparked fear and anger among US Hispanics, now the largest US minority group.

Around 11,000 students in the Los Angeles area took part in the walkout, school officials said.

"It's smaller than yesterday," said Monica Carazo of the Los Angeles Unified School District. The fresh boycott came a day after more than 36,000 students stormed out of class and marched on streets and freeways across the Los Angeles area to protest the immigration bill adopted by the US House of Representatives.

Scores of schools across the second largest US city Tuesday were put under a strict lockdown to avoid mass walkouts, but students defied the ban and even the rare event of rain did not prevent hundreds of them from taking to the streets.

One group of about 200 massed in the city's San Pedro area and began marching along rain-swept roads early Tuesday, despite warnings that disciplinary action could be taken against them for skipping school.

LAUSD chief Roy Romer warned students that starting Wednesday they would be treated as truants if they did not turn up for class or if they walked out. *AFP*

GO NEGOSYO.
GO MICRONEGOSYO!

RFM
National Book St
NEGOSYO

Joey Concepcion III
RFM Corporation
Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship
Founder of Go Negosyo

Socorro Ramos
National Book Store
Trustee, Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

Sumali. Matuto. Umasenso.

Free admission!
No pre-registration needed.

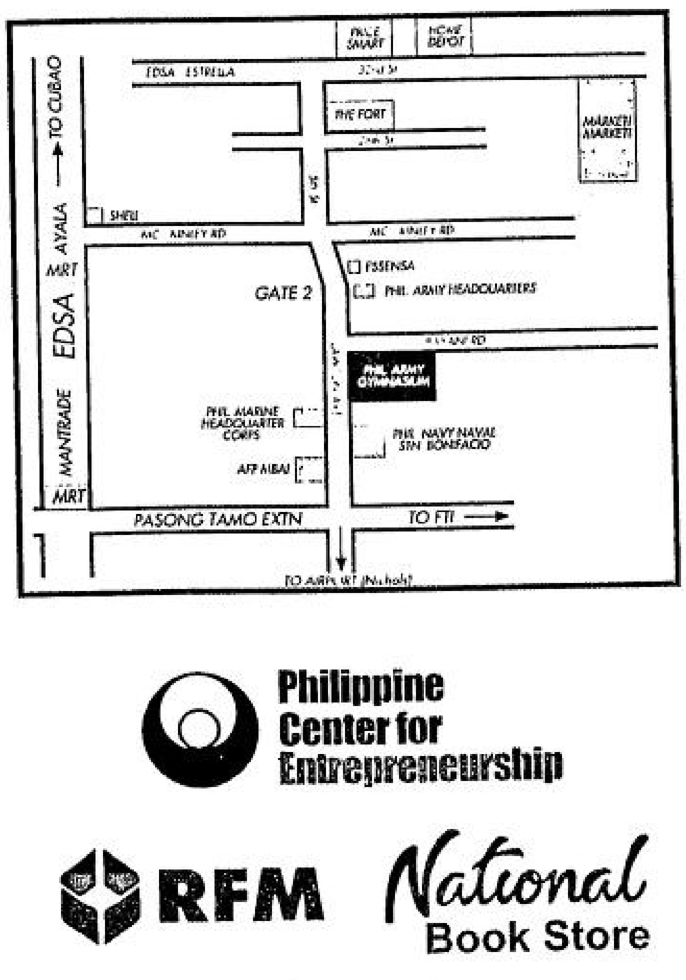
Makibahagi sa Go Negosyo MicroNegosyo Fair na gaganapin sa Philippine Army Gym, Lawton Avenue corner Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio sa March 31 at April 1, 2006 mula 9am hanggang 6pm.

Tulad nina Joey Concepcion at Socorro Ramos, mga leading advocates ng Go Negosyo na minsan ay nangarap na umasenso at gumawa ng paraan para makamit ang tagumpay, kayang-kaya mo rin abutin ang iyong mga mithiin. Basta sapat na kaalaman, sipag, dedikasyon at pagmamahal sa trabaho ang iyong puhunan, tiyak na uunlad din ang iyong munting pinaghirapan! Makilahok na sa Go Negosyo MicroNegosyo Fair at alamin ang sari-saring paraan kung paano umasenso!

March 31, Friday

RIBBON CUTTING (Gen. Generoso Senga with Mrs. Senga* • Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr. with Mrs. Esperon* • Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga with Mrs. Mayuga* • Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes with Mrs. Reyes* • Mayor Sigfrido Tinga with Mrs. Tinga* • Mr. Jose Ma. Concepcion III with Mrs. Marissa Concepcion • Ms. Vivienne Tan • Ms. Maricel Laxa • NATIONAL ANTHEM • INVOCATION • GO NEGOSYO MUSIC VIDEO • FEU GO NEGOSYO DANCERS • OPENING REMARKS (Jose Ma. Concepcion III) • BUSINESSMAN MANIC MANAOG (Leo Martinez) • INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAM AND INTERACTIVE SESSIONS (Carelle Mangaliag) • FORUM 1: "MICRONEGOSYO, KAPANGYARIHAN NG KABABAIHAN" [Moderator - Karen Davila • Panelists: Coney Reyes* • Cory Quirino* • Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings, Inc.) • Myrna Yao (NCRFW) • Cheese Ledesma (The Big Chill) • Jeanne Bañez (Balut Eggspress) • Florita Banayat (Phil. Airforce Officers' Ladies' Club) • Merle Alferez (MSA)] • TESTIMONY: "ANG BALANSYADONG BUHAY: PAMILYA'T NEGOSYO" (Maricel Laxa) • FORUM 2: "POSIBLENG NEGOSYO, ANONG BABAGAY SA'YO?" [Moderator - Karen Davila • Panelists: Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters) • Richie Cuna (Fiorgelato) • Chit Juan (Figaro) • Rowena Villegas (Wynski) • Karl Tan (PAGASA) • Agnes Car (Women Inventors Association of the Phils., Inc.)] • GAME SHOW WITH SMALL BUSINESSES AS PRIZES (Arnel Ignacio*) • MAKATANG NONOY: ISANG TULA HANDOG SA KABABAIHAN (Ony Carcamo) • FORUM 3: "PERANG PANG-NEGOSYO, SAAN KA NGA BA TATAKBO?" [Moderator - Cherry Mercado • Panelists: AFPMBAI (Ma. Corazon Dabao, Head, Public Relations Department) • NLSF (c/o Dennis Hamto) • People's Credit and Finance Corporation (Jessica Barrun, Asst. Vice President for NCR and Region 4) • Bayan Foundation (Noel Camacho, Client Services Group) • BPI Family Savings Bank (Ma. Teresa Reyes, Market Head for SME) • First Macro Bank (Rafael Serrano, Project Manager for Micro Finance) • PSBank (Derick Rasalan, Branch Head of PSBank Bonifacio Global City) • Phil. Youth Business Foundation (John Walter Baybay)*] • TESTIMONY: "PAGNENEGOSYO KASAMA ANG KAPUSO'T KAPAMILYA" (Anthony Pangilinan) • TALK: "KALAYAAAN SA KAKAPUSAN" (Francisco Colayco) • FORUM 4: "RADYO NEGOSYO: MGA PAYO AT GABAY SA TAGUMPAY" [Moderators - Anna Periquet and Carl Balita • Panelists: Arnel Ignacio* • Maoi Arroyo Rommel Juan (Binalot) • Doyee Tumpalan (First Quadrant) • Ricardo Collantes (Kookal's) • Johnlu Koa (The French Baker) • Sandy Javier (Andok's)*] • SUM UP/FINAL INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY W/ HOST

*For confirmation



April 1, Saturday

SKILLS DEMO/TRAINING BY LE CORDON BLEU, TESDA-NCR, DOST, TLRC AND REYES HAIRCUTTERS: • POLVORON AND PASTILLAS MAKING (Laura Lazaro - WIAPI) • CHOCOLATE CANDY MAKING c/o TLRC • PAPER TOLE (Shirly Fabros - Approtech Asia) • REFLEXOLOGY c/o Women Center • MEAT AND DIMSUM MAKING c/o Approtech Asia • COOKING AND FOOD PREPARATION • BASIC HAIRCUTTING • WEB DESIGN c/o Mark Fernandez (TESDA-NCR) • TOMATO-BASED PRODUCTS c/o Approtech Asia • AUTOCADD c/o Freddie Estacio (TESDA-NCR) • PRESERVED SAMPALOC AND TEA MAKING (Rita Ritz - WIAPI) • HANDS-ON BAKING DEMO (HAND-MIXED PINOY PANDESAL) AND MICRO-BAKERY BUSINESS MENTORING c/o Johnlu G. Koa • CELLPHONE REPAIR c/o Approtech Asia • SESSIONS ON STARTING A BUSINESS: HOW TO START A FRANCHISE BUSINESS c/o Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc. • "LAKBAY KAINAN: GOURMET PARA SA MASA" (Ludette Dayrit - Le Cordon Bleu) • HOW TO START A FOOD CART BUSINESS c/o Food Cart Association of the Philippines • HOW TO START A SALON/BARBERSHOP c/o Reyes Haircutters • HOW TO START A HOME SPA BUSINESS (Cathy Brillantes-Turvill - Founding President, Spa Association of the Philippines) • BUSINESS MENTORING BOOTH - Mentoring from 11am to 4pm c/o Anna Periquet

Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

RFM

National Book Store

Para sa inyong mga tanong, tumawag lamang sa Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship sa mga numerong 637-9347, 637-9229, 813-2612, 813-2617 o sa 0921-820-0484, 0920-960-7636 o mag-email sa gonegosyo@yahoo.com.

Fugitive Liberian warlord Taylor arrested

ABUJA—FORMER LIBERIAN LEADER AND fugitive war crimes suspect Charles Taylor was arrested Wednesday in a northern Nigerian town near the Cameroon border, police spokesperson Haz Iwendi said.

"Mr. Taylor has been arrested. He was arrested in the early hours of today at Gamboringala in Borno State. He is currently with the security agents. He will be flown to Abuja later," Iwendi said.

On Tuesday, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo announced that Taylor had disappeared from his plush villa in the southeastern Nigerian city of Calabar, where he has lived in exile since he fled Liberia in August 2003.

The news sparked international condemnation and demands that Nigeria track him down and extradite him to Liberia's neighbhor Sierra Leone, where international prosecutors have accused him of crimes against humanity.

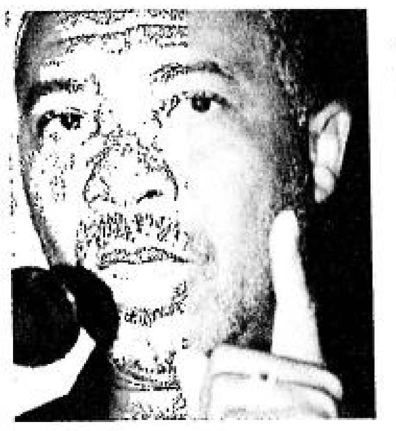
Babagana Alhaji Kata, a trader working at the Gamgoringala border post said that Taylor had arrived at the frontier in an ash-colored Range Rover jeep with the diplomatic corps number plate 81 CD 85.

"He was wearing a white flowing robe," Kata said.

"He passed through immigration but when he reached customs they were suspicious and they insisted on searching the jeep, where they found a large amount of US dollars," he added "After a further search they discovered he was Charles Taylor," he said.

Kata said that Taylor was taken away towards the Borno State capital Maiduguri escorted by two soldiers, two immigration officers and two customs officials.

News of Taylor's disappearance had prompted United Nations chief Kofi Annan on Tuesday to appeal to West African countries to arrest and deny refuge to Taylor.



TAYLOR

Taylor is accused by a UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone of masterminding a policy of murder, torture, pillage and rape in Liberia and Sierra Leone, where prosecutors have lodged a 17-count indictment alleging crimes against humanity.

Taylor had been living in exile in southeastern Nigeria until Monday night, when he was found to have left his luxury villa.

Taylor's disappearance came just 48 hours after Obasanjo announced that Liberia was free to "take Taylor into custody" and human rights activists were quick to condemn what they said may be a bid to escape international justice.

Taylor's estranged wife Jewel Howard Taylor told Liberia's Star radio, sponsored by a Swiss non-governmental organization, that her former husband could be still in Nigeria.

"I do not know what the situation is. But I do not think he will run away. Charles Taylor is not a person who runs away. So I do not think it is possible," said the former first lady of Liberia.

Howard Taylor, has warned that trying Taylor for war crimes would open a pandora's box.

"It is not just one person that is responsible for the war," she said.

"If we are talking about freedom and justice and if they want to punish people then every one has to be punished from the beginning to the end.

"And if we want to pardon every one then we should pardon every one across the board," she said adding that the recently established truth and reconciliation commission should be allowed to conduct its probe "and find out what the real story is and then we can move forward." Meanwhile, Liberia former caretaker president Moses Blah threw his weight behind Taylor's demands to be tried outside Sierra Leone, where the former warlord is accused of sponsoring rebels in a brutal war against President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah's government in the 1990s.

AFP

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY 29 MAR 06 03:33 UTC

THIS Australian Bureau of Meteorology satellite image shows Cyclone Glenda off the coast of Western Australia (top-left). AFP

Powerful cyclone threatens parts of Western Australia

CANBERRA—A POWERFUL CYclone with winds up to 300 kph menaced northern parts of Western Australia on Wednesday, less than two weeks after a storm devastated homes and crops on the other side of the country.

Some oil and gas operations and key iron ore ports closed ahead of the arrival of Cyclone Glenda in an area known as "cyclone alley" because it is regularly swept by storms at this time of year.

The storm, ranked in the most powerful grade for cyclones, category five, was about 335 km north of the town of Port Hedland and moving south along the coast, the Tropical Cyclone Warning Center said. "Tomorrow's really the day where things could happen," said forecaster Adam Conroy from the center in Perth.

The remote Pilbara region under threat is home to around 10,000 people and includes Woodside Petroleum's A$14 billion ($10 billion) North West Shelf liquefied natural gas (LNG) project at Karratha, about 700 km north of Perth.

"Residents of the central and west Pilbara coast are warned of the risk of very destructive winds with gusts exceeding 250 km per hour during Thursday as this very dangerous cyclone nears the coast," the Bureau of Meteorology said on its website (www.bom.gov.au).

Australia's northeastern coast was devastated last week by another category five storm, Cyclone Larry. It blew roofs off houses, uprooted trees and decimated sugar and banana crops, causing damage worth up to A$1.5 billion ($1 billion).

Woodside said on Wednesday that it had suspended production at its 100,000-barrel-per-day Cossack oilfield in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday as the sixth cyclone of the season approached. Oil and gas producer Santos Ltd. shut its 40,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) Mutineer-Exeter oil field on Monday and BHP Billiton's 10,600 bpd Griffin oil field has been closed since Saturday, after it was threatened by a smaller storm.

Reuters

Moussaoui's testimony discredited

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—TOP AL-QAIDA OPERAtives and others in US custody said in testimony on Tuesday that Zacarias Moussaoui was untrustworthy and not part of the Sept. 11 attacks.

One day after Moussaoui gave shocking testimony that he was meant to fly a plane into the White House as part of the Sept. 11 plot, the men detained as US enemy combatants contradicted him.

Most of the testimony was read aloud from detainees who were forbidden from testifying because of national security concerns. Much of it questioned Moussaoui's competence, and the man said to be the financier of the Sept. 11 attacks said he had had no involvement with Moussaoui.

Moussaoui is on trial to determine if he gets the death penalty for admitting guilt in connection with the attacks in New York and Washington which killed about 3,000 people.

Last year, when he pleaded guilty to conspiracy in connection with the attacks, Moussaoui said he was meant to be in a second wave of attacks.

In an effort to rebut Moussaoui's own damaging admissions on Monday, defense attorney Edward MacMahon read a transcript from the hearing in which Moussaoui pleaded guilty and where he said he was not involved in the Sept. 11 attacks.

The defense then rested its case. Closing arguments were scheduled for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, after which the jury will begin deliberations.

As part of their effort to rebuild its case, the defense presented a statement from Sayf al-Adl, a senior member of al-Qaida's military committee, who said Moussaoui was "absolutely not" going to take part in the Sept. 11 mission.

Mustafa al Hawsawi, the financier who gave several of the hijackers airline tickets to the United States, said he had "no knowledge" of Moussaoui's financial dealings.

Reuters

STOP FOREST CRIME

LAST FRONTIER

Greenpeace campaigners Indonesian Hapsoro (left) and US citizen Ginger Cassady display a placard at a logging operation site along the coast of Papua. Greenpeace called on leaders of Indonesia and Britain to halt the destruction of Indonesia's last ancient forests. AFP

Olmert wins Israeli election

JERUSALEM—ACTING LEADER Ehud Olmert said Wednesday that Israel was ready to compromise with the Palestinians but warned it was prepared to take destiny into its own hands as he claimed electoral victory.

"We have been entrusted with the task of determining the country's character," he said at the headquarters of his Kadima party after a ballot presented as a de-facto referendum on his plan to fix Israel's final borders.

"It's time to make peace between ourselves and put aside all our differences," he said in the televised address.

"I call on the head of the Palestinian Authority Mahmud Abbas, I am telling him directly that during thousands of years we had a dream of peace in Israel, this land and its historic borders will always remain the wish in our hearts.

"But understand. We are ready to make compromises, to give up parts of beloved land of Israel where our sons are buried and evacuate Jews who live there to make a life to fulfill your dream to live in peace.

He called on Palestinians to make their own concessions, without which his incoming government would proceed with unilateral decisions and seek an international consensus with allies such as the United States.

"The time has come for the Palestinians to come to terms, as we have, with the realization of only part of their dreams, to stop terror, to stop hatred, to create their own fair and democratic lives," he said.

"There is no good alternative to a peace agreement. There is no more stable peace than one based on an agreement.

"We will strive to bring about the establishment of the final borders of Israel as a Jewish state with a permanent Jewish majority, and as a democratic country. We will work to do this through negotiations," he said.

"If the Palestinians agree to act soon, we will sit at the negotiating table in order to create a new reality in our region. If they do not, Israel will take its fate into its own hands," he insisted.

But Olmert warned that in the absence of negotiations, his next government would seek the support of the United States for his policy of acting unilaterally, but would go it alone if necessary.

AFP

HONDA
The Power of Dreams
CATCH THE FEVER
Live broadcast on April 3, 9pm on Studio 23.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SPORTS TV

TENNIS: Nasdaq 100; 10 a.m. (r-2 p.m.), 4 p.m. (r – 10:30 p.m.); STAR Sports – Catch quarterfinal round action from Key Biscayne.

BASKETBALL: 2006 McDonald's All-America Game; 11 a.m.; ESPN – The future hoop stars showcase their skills.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Compiled by L. Manguiat

Dy lone RP bet standing

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINO-AMERICAN BET DENISE DY WITHstood the foreign charge that bundled out her compatriots and became the last local hope after a 6-2, 7-6 (0) victory over Kai Chen Chang of Chinese Taipei yesterday in the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer junior tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The victory made up for the loss of lone Filipino boys' campaigner Kyle Joshua Dandan, who wasted match point on the way to dropping a 6-0, 4-6, 7-6 (7) heartbreaker to 11th seed Greg Jones of Australia.

The fifth-seeded Dy, 16, used the form she has honed from three international tournaments this year to set a third-round battle with Thailand's Varatchay Wongteanchai. The No. 9 seed Thai defeated China's Xuan Yuguo, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

On the other hand, the 16-year-old Dandan, the country's top junior netter who is on his 8th international event this year, took a 7-6 lead in the tie-break but just couldn't finish off the big-serving Australian, who drilled in three straight points to take the win.

"In this kind of tournament, you can't afford to give up a set," said Dandan, who admitted relaxing in the first set. "I had many unforced errors and in the tie break [and] just [couldn't] deal with his serves."

The 5-foot-9 Dandan, who is on home study program where he is an incoming senior high school, was the only one of the five RP wildcard entries who made the second round.

RED BULL'S Enrico Villanueva (right) soars to block the shot of Air 21's Mark Telan. ERIK ARAZAS

Tugade heroics power Red Bull

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

COACH YENG GUIAO had doubts whether Lordy Tugade could deliver the goods for his team. Red Bull's hot-shooting wingman erased them all.

Tugade rattled home the decisive baskets and sparked the Bulls to an emphatic 112-98 win over the Air 21 Express in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Recovering from a bout with the flu, Tugade came off the bench and drained 13 of his team-high 17 points in the pivotal fourth for the Bulls' third win in five games for a share of second place.

"There was a point in the game that I was ready to pull him (Tugade) out and field in Larry (Fonacier) instead," said Guiao. "But when he started making those threes, I decided to stick with him."

Tugade nailed a three-pointer that broke Air21's mild uprising, pulling the Express from 13 points down to within 80-75. He clustered 13 points to help seal the victory.

"It was the most crucial point in the game," said Guiao. "But that's not the game of Lordy yet. He should be consistent all game long."

In the second game, the San Miguel Beermen got a balanced effort from their starters and hacked out a 100-89 victory over the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 112—Tugade 17, Villanueva 15, Fonacier 13, Cruz 12, Bugia 11, Pennisi 11, Baguio 10, Valenzuela 9, Alvarez 8, Robinson 6.

AIR21 98—Ritualo 24, Telan 18, De Ocampo R. 11, De Ocampo 10, Se 8, Arboleda 8, Fran 7, Canaleta 5, Tubid 5, Dacia 2, Bernardo 0.

Quarters: 26-27, 54-45, 81-75, 112-98.

New group won't get Fiba nod—Lim

By Jasmine W. Payo

DETAINED BASKETBALL ASSOciation of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim pointed out a key factor that could break the hopes of Pilipinas Basketball in getting the nod of the international basketball federation (Fiba) and having the country's 10-month old ban from international meets lifted.

NEW/ A26

Rain or Shine, Toyota Otis pit big men

BANKING ON THEIR BIG MEN, RAIN OR Shine and Toyota Otis pulled off opening-day victories in the PBL Unity Cup.

Thus, a strong frontcourt battle is expected when the Elasto Painters and the Sparks clash for a share of the lead at 4 p.m. today at the San Andres Gym.

Harbour Centre and Hapee-PCU, though, are turning to their formidable backcourt as they try to overcome their first-day losses at 2 p.m.

Coach Louie Alas said that, just like in their opening game, the Sparks must create more offensive situations for their big men in order to join the idle Montaña Jewels on top at 2-0.

"We have to be consistent in what we're doing," said Alas. "The last two conferences we were in the cellars. So the key also is our mind-set."

Fil-Am center Joe Devance exploded with 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead Toyota Otis past Hapee-PCU, 77-73, last Sunday.

The frontcourt duo of Marvin Ortiguerra and Junjun Cabatu also made things happen for the Painters, firing 16 points apiece for a 70-64 triumph over Harbour Centre.

But the Painters said they will be parading another threat in Samigue Eman, a prized young center from Davao.

"He has the makings of a Dennis Espino," said team manager Boy Lapid of the 6-foot-9 cager, who played for the University of Mindanao and the disbanded RP-Cebuana Lhuillier Team. "I'm sure he's the player we've been looking for. He's quick for his size."

STANDINGS	W	L
Montaña	2	0
R. Shine	1	0
Toyota Otis	1	0
Magnolia	1	1
G. Goose	1	1
H. Centre	0	1
H.-PCU	0	1
TeleTech	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(San Andres Gym)
2 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Toyota Otis

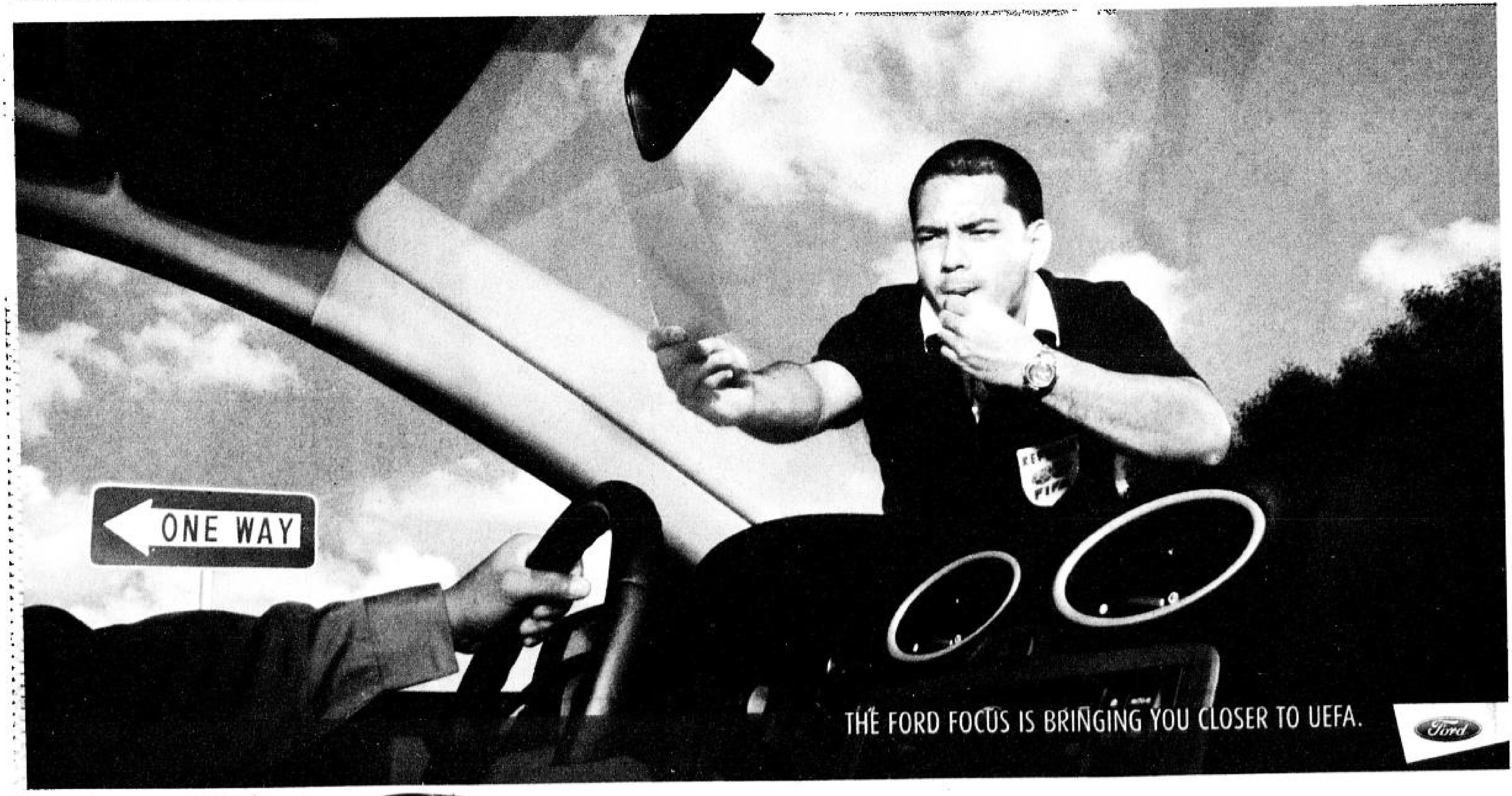
Jason Castro, meanwhile, had an explosive offensive performance for Hapee-PCU, which is owned by Cecilio Pedro and Jack Huang. The speedy Castro, last conference's top scorer, delivered 25 points on a 50-percent shooting.

His individual efforts, though, weren't enough and the Teethmasters will be needing the offensive contributions of Gabby Espinas and Robert Sanz.

The Portmasters, too, need more offensive spark from stars Joseph Yeo, LA Tenorio and Rob Reyes.

Ryan Araña, who scored 13 points off the bench in his debut, is also expected to contribute to Harbour Centre. *Jasmine W. Payo*

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on March 31, 2006 • Starts at 8:30 a.m. sharp.



THE FORD FOCUS IS BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO UEFA.

Now available 1.6L Trend
2.0L Sport

Don't get caught unaware. One of Europe's most-awarded cars is giving you a taste of the finest football around.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

www.ford.com.ph
Ford Solutions

For financing call 635-1251

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No.: 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line 927-9648, Fax No.: 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel Nos.: 952-9118, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel No. 744-2222, Fax No: 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel No 723-7029 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line 637-2044, Fax No 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline 860-8888, Fax No 818-5000 • Ford Manila, Tel. No: 562-5555 Fax No: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel Nos 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888, Telefax 717-1390 • Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos.: (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel No.: (044) 464-0111; Fax No (044) 600 4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel. No.: (075) 522-2222, Telefax (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No.: (049) 562-9186, Telefax (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel. No.: (046) 472-2040; Fax. (046) 472-2048 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line (032) 231-9180, Fax No.: (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No.: (034) 432-2151, Telefax (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No.: (033) 321-3352, Telefax No.: (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No.: (088) 855-8811; Telefax (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel. No (082) 234-1111; Fax No.: (082) 234-2222 • Ford Credit, Tel. No.: 635-1251

Roddick, Federer book Nasdaq quarters slots

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—ANDY RODDICK walked off a winner Tuesday, even though instant replay kept him on the court longer than he wanted.

Roddick was nursing a lead in the third set when video reviews cost him back-to-back points, but he accepted the overrules without complaint and beat qualifier Simon Greul, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, to reach the quarterfinals of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

"I can't be angry about it, because the right call was made," Roddick said. "I'm sure there are going to be times when it's going to be the situation reversed, and I think you're OK with it as long as you know the correct call is being made."

Seeded fourth, Roddick needed four match points to finish off the dangerous Greul, who came into the tournament with one career victory on the ATP Tour, then beat three consecutive top-60 players. He hits an unconventional mixture of shots, most of them accompanied by a grunt that might be the loudest in men's tennis.

"It's amusing when you're winning, and annoying when you're losing," Roddick said.

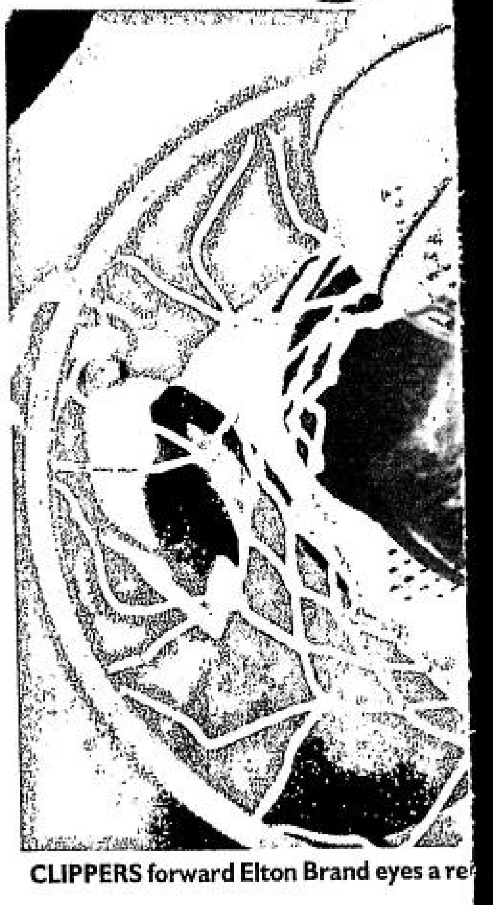
Roddick smiled in the end, and on Thursday he'll play No. 11 seed David Ferrer, who beat No. 29 Olivier Rochus, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2), 7-5. Their match was the longest of the tournament at 3 hours, 18 minutes.

By contrast, No. 1 Roger Federer took 58 minutes to eliminate unseeded Dmitry Tursunov, 6-3, 6-3. Federer extended to 20 matches his record winning streak in Masters Series events, and he improved to 25-1 this year.

Federer's opponent Thursday will be No. 9 James Blake, who rallied past No. 32 Juan Ignacio Chela, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0. Federer beat Blake in the final at Indian Wells on March 19.

"Obviously he can do about anything with a tennis racket in his hand," Blake said. "But on a given day, hopefully so can I."

On the women's side, No. 1 seed Amelie Mauresmo and No. 12 Svetlana Kuznetsova advanced to a semifinal matchup Friday. Mauresmo improved to 23-3 this year. *AP*



CLIPPERS forward Elton Brand eyes a re

Buffer to declare Pacquiao, Larios 'ready to rumble'

WHEN MANNY PACQUIAO AND OSCAR LARIOS MEET UP on July 2 at the Araneta Coliseum, a familiar voice will make sure that both fighters will be "ready to rumble."

Michael Buffer, the famed ring announcer who has the patent rights to the boxing's most popular catchphrase "Let's get ready to rumble," will call in not just the Pacquiao-Larios tiff, but also the night's undercards.

The development was revealed by Eric Pineda, a member of Manny Pacquiao promotions, who added that Golden Boy promotions chief executive officer Richard Schaefer has already signed the fight contract in behalf of Larios.

Larios will meet the hard-hitting Pacquiao in a 12-round showdown for the World Boxing Council International super featherweight title.

Pineda added that Schaefer has already given the green light for Larios to face Pacquiao, where the Mexican is set to receive a whopping $450,000 purse, the biggest so far in his career.

A ringside ticket to the Pacquiao-Larios tiff is expected to fetch P25,000 while a ticket at the bleachers section will cost P1,000.

Plans are likewise afoot to sell special tickets worth $1,000, although nothing is final yet. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

Paragua marries

IT'S easy to understand why Grandmaster Mark Paragua is flashing his best form these days. He's in love, is getting married today and is bound to be a father. The country's top-ranked player with an Elo of 2617 based on the April 2006 rating of Fide exchanges vows with Christine Dacayo of Sgt. Catolos, Quezon City, in a civil wedding today at 4 p.m. at Divine Trust (Old Church) in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Newly elected NCFP president and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospespor "Butch" Pichay, Bulacan Gov. Josie Pagdanganan, long-time benefactor Filway Marketings Inc. CEO/ president Hector "Chito" Tagaysay and engineer Albert "Ka Bito" Cruz of Barangay Pandayan will stand as sponsors. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Badminton kickoff up

THE KICKOFF leg of the JVC Regional Badminton Championships will be held on Monday with hundreds expected to beat the deadline today. The organizing IMG said the field is likely to surpass the 226-player cast last year based on the response of the players and fans leading to the tournament proper slated April 3-7 at the Holiday Spa in Banilad, Cebu City. Fees are P100 for single entry event and P150 for those playing in two or three events. For details, check website at www.jvcbadminton.com or e-mail at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com or call 0917-8050702 (Tonette); 0917-8050601 (Carol); 0917-5288970 (Nelson).

NCFP elims

THE NATIONAL CHESS Federation of the Philippines Region 6 qualifier for the country's representatives to the 2006 World Chess Olympiad, dubbed as Mayor Evello Leonardia Chess Championship, starts today at the Bacolod Pavilion Resort & Restaurant in Bacolod City. The three-day event being held under the auspices of NCFP president and Surigao del Sur Rep. Butch Pichay is bankrolled by Mayor Evelio Leonardia. The top 10 finishers will advance to the semifinal round on April 6 to 9.

GAL ends

THE 2006 Girls Athletic League recently held its championships in basketball, badminton, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball and cheering competitions at the La Salle Greenhills grounds. The champions are badminton (division 1) St. Pedro Poveda; (division 2) Assumption Antipolo; (division 3) Assumption College; basketball (level 1) La Salle-Zobel; (level 2) Assumption Antipolo; indoor volleyball (division 1) Miriam; (division 2) St. Theresa's; (division 3) Miriam College; cheering competition, Assumption College.

Governme
Cigarette smoking is da

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Pistons hold off Mavericks

Bucks ring Bell, rout Suns; Sonics halt Grizzlies' streak

bound.

REUTERS

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—Chauncey Billups scored 31 points and added 11 assists here Tuesday as Detroit defeated Dallas, 97-90, in a possible preview of the NBA Finals.

Billups scored eight points in the final three minutes to rally the Pistons past the Mavericks in a showdown of teams fighting for the NBA's top regular-season record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

"This was a three-game swing," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "We get an extra win and they get an extra loss."

Rasheed Wallace contributed 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who improved to an Eastern Conference-best 56-14 with their fifth triumph in six games and averted consecutive home losses for the first time this season.

Dirk Nowitzki and former Piston Jerry Stackhouse each scored 25 points for Dallas, which fell to 54-17 and slid a half-game behind San Antonio for the best Western Conference and Southwest division record.

"This is a very disappointing loss," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "They executed better than we did down the stretch. We battled. We fought. This was a playoff atmosphere.

"We wish we would have been able to match their intensity down the stretch, but we didn't. They were in the bounce-back mode and they bounced back."

The Mavericks lost for the third time in five games after the Pistons, who lost at home Sunday to New Jersey, closed with an 11-2 run.

"This was a big game for both teams," Saunders said. "They're fighting San Antonio to try to win their division and we're fighting to make sure we maintain and keep our rhythm."

Billups, an All-Star point guard, scored seven points in each of the first three quarters then flashed the form that made him the 2004 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player by sparking the late rally.

"Chauncey hit some big shots," Wallace said. "He did a good job. He hit some real big shots when we needed it."

In other games, it was Charlotte 125, Atlanta 117; Milwaukee 132, Phoenix 110; Seattle 98, Memphis 97; Orlando 97, Chicago 93; Washington 97, Sacramento 84; San Antonio 98, LA Clippers 87

In Milwaukee, Charlie Bell had career-highs of 19 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double, and the Bucks hit a franchise-record 18 three-pointers on the way to routing the Suns.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Ray Allen made an off-balance 19-footer with 0.3 seconds left, and Seattle overcame Pau Gasol's franchise-record 44 points to snap the Grizzlies' seven-game winning streak.

In Los Angeles, Tim Duncan had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Michael Finley also scored 20 points, and San Antonio broke open a tight game in the third quarter to down the Los Angeles Clippers.

AFP, AP

NBA on SOLAR SPORTS: 8 a.m.—Detroit vs. Philadelphia (replay at 8 p.m.)

All-American live on ESPN

THE FUTURE superstars of the NBA showcase their skills today when the 2006 McDonald's High School All-American Game airs at 11 a.m. live and exclusive on ESPN. Since 1977, the top high school basketball seniors in the United States have been selected to participate in the All-American Game. Prominent players who have played in the game are Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. This year's game will be held at the San Diego State University. Expected to shine are 7-foot-1 Ohio State signee Greg Oden and 7-foot Stanford-bound twins Brook and Robin Lopez.

Tangkad cage tilt

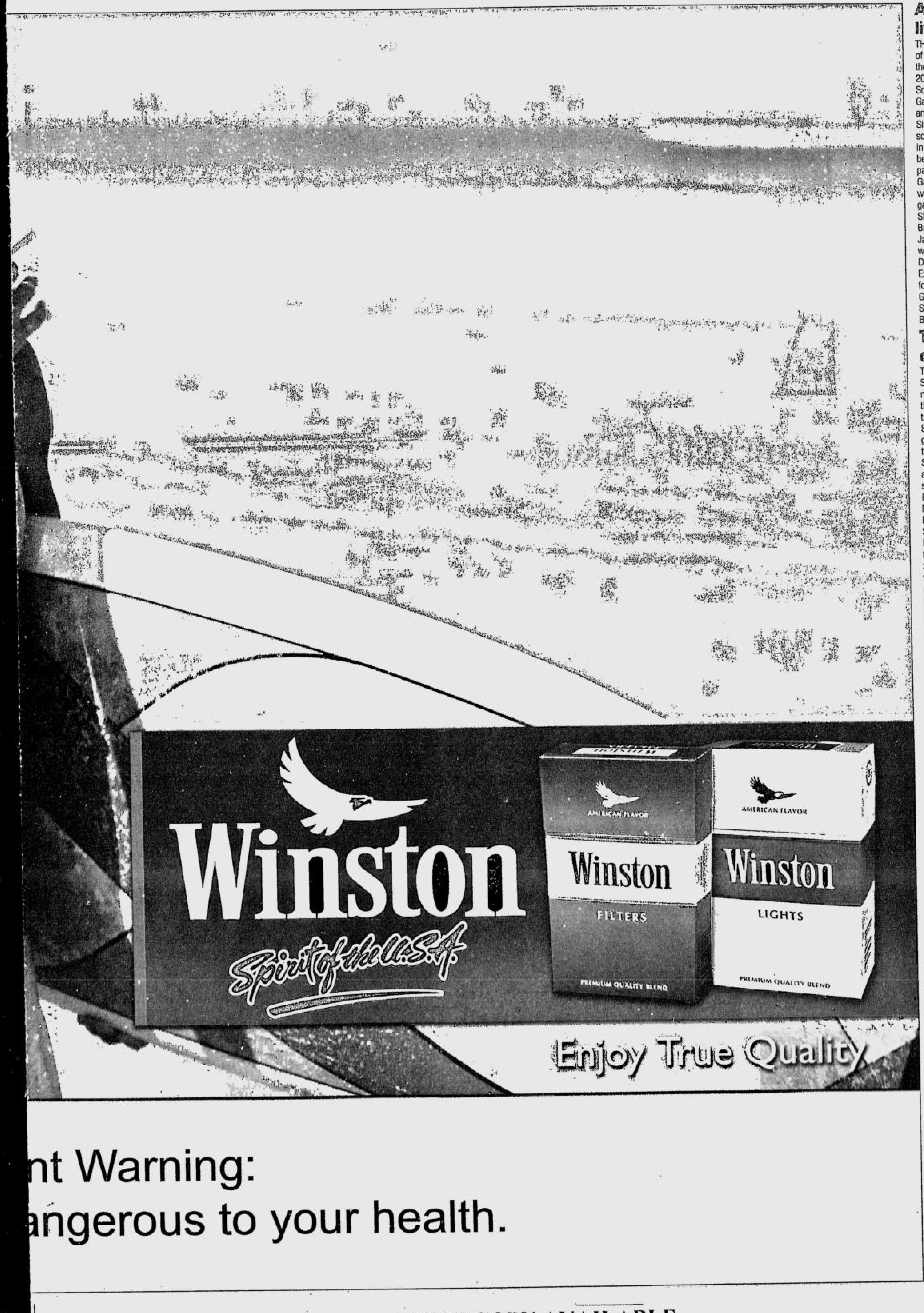
THE CHERIFER Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament culminates with the National Finals featuring San Beda-Manila, St. Scholastica-Pampanga, Marist School-Antipolo and Imus Pilot School-Cavite on April 1 at the Peoples Village inside the Tiendesitas in Pasig City. San Beda-Manila, St. Scholastica-Pampanga, Marist School-Antipolo and Imus Pilot School-Cavite topped their respective zone qualifying rounds where more than 60 elementary schools competed in the event for boys aged 12-and-under. Cherifer product manager Tom Meneses said that all players would be given playing jerseys, while winners would receive team trophies, medals and gift packs.

Subic Bay tennis camp

ONGOING at the world-class Subic Bay International Tennis Center is a tennis camp which offers superior instruction in a fun-spirited, team-oriented format. Included in the clinic to be handled by Grand Slammer Beeyong Sison and his staff are topics in tennis rules, etiquette, sportsmanship, nutrition, fitness and strategies. The clinic boasts a teacher to student ratio of one instructor to every five or six students. Programs are offered to juniors and adults for all levels at very affordable prices. Private lessons are offered to all ages and play levels by appointment. Call: 047-252-2885 & 86 or log on at www.subicbaytennis.com.

EMB 4-cock derby today

THE EMB 4-cock derby sizzles at 5 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 82 fights on tap. A cash prize of P400,000 is at stake, plus special prizes for the fastest win champions. Entry fee is P7,700, said host engineer Eric Bugarin. The "Cash Premyo 3-cock derby" comes next on Saturday, April 1, with Abraham Bernales, Tiling Capitan and Mario Gujelde as hosts.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Southwestern U spikers exit

THREE-TIME CHAMPION SOUTHwestern University's shock exit rocked the Visayas eliminations of the 10th Nestea Beach Volley Championships yesterday.

After losing their opening match to University of San Agustin, 25-12, the other day, Southwestern's Marites Natad and Hazel Piñero split their two matches and was booted out with a 1-2 slate.

Natad failed to squeeze the best from Piñero, her rookie partner and a last-minute replacement for Joreen Sanchez who injured her right knee just days before the event.

Southwestern beat University of Iloilo, 25-12, yesterday morning but failed against University of Southern Philippines, 25-15, at the La Salle Green Hills sand court.

Advancing to the Boracay semis and finals on May 4 to 6 are Univ. of San Agustin, Univ. of the Visayas, Univ. of Southern Philippines and University of San Jose-Recoletos.

In the men's side, earning slots to the next round are Foundation, USJ-R, University of San Carlos and University of Negros Occ. Recoletos.

Drawing the attention yesterday was the women's pair from University of San Agustin. Powered by 5-foot-9 Nerissa Bautista, USA bested Foundation, 25-23, and became the first team to advance with a perfect 3-0 record.

Luzon teams already assured of slots to Boracay are reigning titlist St. Benilde, 1999 winner FEU, Adamson and St. Francis in the men's division, and 2002 champ Adamson, St. Benilde, Letran and University of Baguio in the distaff side.

Teams from Mindanao will dispute the Boracay slots today also at La Salle Green Hills. There are a total of 16 teams that will vie for the four men's and four women's slots to the next round.

JULETT Mae Marikit of the USJR dives for the ball as Jusabelle Brillo of UV looks ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

New group won't get Fiba ...

From page A23

It's no different from the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., the Philippine Olympic Committee-initiated national association first penciled to take the place of the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The members of the country's biggest basketball stakeholders, however, see it otherwise.

"Pilipinas Basketball is still the same as Philippine Basketball Federation," Lim pointed out from his detention cell at the Bureau of Immigration in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. "It's not going to change a thing."

The PBFI had already sought the Fiba blessing before but was rejected. Lim says Pilipinas Basketball is going the same route. The structures of both federations are basically the same, prompting the assessment of Lim.

"[But] The PBFI was not guided by the Fiba in coordination with the POC," PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad pointed out to differentiate the two associations. "Pilipinas Basketball was quided by Fiba itself. So why would the Fiba order the formation of a new federation and not give its blessing now that such a federation has been formed?"

Orchard remains jr leader

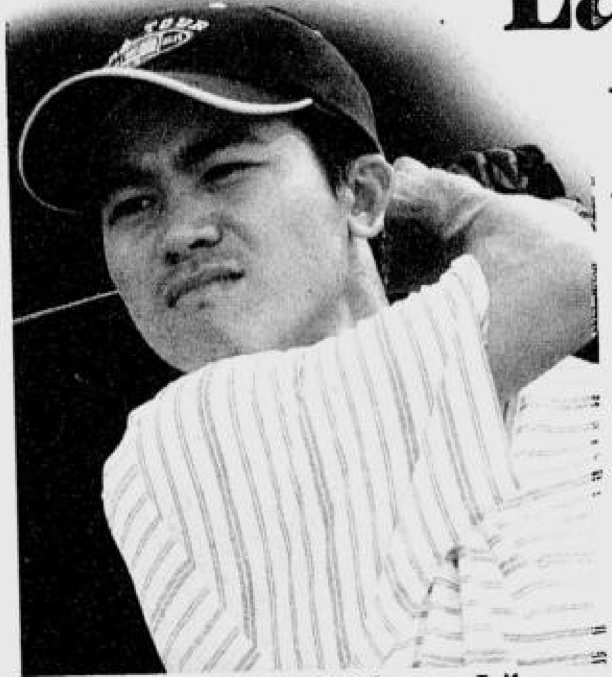
LIPA, BATANGAS—ORCHARD thwarted Aguinaldo with a 235 total yesterday to stay afloat by two strokes after the penultimate round of the Jungolf Interclub 2006s, the opening leg of the Samsung Summer Circuit, at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club here.

Wolen Superal carded a 74 that made up for the 79 of sister Crystal and 82 of Nico Sevilla as the Orchard bets posted a 36-hole aggregate of 467 to remain at the helm but saw their overnight lead of five shots reduced to just two.

Big-hitting Gino Bunyi matched par 72, Jobim Carlos had a 74 and either of the 86s of Brent Sumampong or JR Austria counted as the third score for Aguinaldo which made 232 for 269 in the tourney which has Samsung and Philippine Airlines as main sponsors. The other sponsors are DHL, Callaway, Titleist, Mizuno, La Jolla, Taylor Made, Wilson, Ping, MCCI Air Liquid, Auto Magic, Inquirer Golf and Michael Guy.

Riviera I also moved into contention with a 232-471 and was just four shots off going into today's final round.

In Division II, Riviera sizzled with a 233 and pulled away by 22 strokes over Royal Northwoods.



JOSEPH Labajo during the 11th Amateur Golf Tournament in Canlubang, Laguna. JUN RAPANAN

Labajo, 4 others share lead in DHL Amateur

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—PINT-SIZED Joseph Labajo returned a 3-under-par 69 and Michael Bibat a 70 yesterday to shake up the 11th DHL-WWWExpress Amateur Open leaderboard that now has five players setting the 36-hole pace.

Mark Fernando chipped in for birdie on the 18th hole, Singaporean Quincy Quek recovered from a double bogey 6 on No. 3 and Ronnie Torrecampo scrambled hard enough to total 145—one-over—and join Labajo and Bibat on top halfway through the annual event.

Fernando, who like Labajo is a product of the National Caddies' Open program, fired a 74 like the 26-year-old Torrecampo, even as Quek showed poise well beyond his 17 years to card a level 72.

Former caddies' champion Jay Bayron matched par and occupied sixth spot with a 146 total, one ahead of a three-man group that included first round leader and 2004 winner Jun Bernis.

Bernis skied to a 78 and dropped into the company of RP pool member Marvin Dumandan (71) and Riviera Golf director Eric Gozo (72) with 147 totals.

Del Monte's Joel Opaco carded a 71 and Singaporean Jonathan Leong rebounded with a 72 to join Rufino Bayron (73) and jungolfer Jik-Jik Abdon (73) in 10th spot, three shots off the pace.

Still, the day belonged to Labajo, a 23-year-old former bag-toter at Valley, who drained five birdies against two bogeys in lining himself up for his first title.

"This course is pretty much like my home course, Calatagan," Labajo, who trains under the NCO program in Batangas, said in Filipino. A total of three players from the NCO program, Rufino Bayron included, are in the top 10 after the second round.

"It only goes to show that we are doing the right thing," said an official NCO statement. "Our aim of producing a member of the RP team within the next two years seems possible at this point."

Spring Oil foils King's cagers

DEFENDING CHAMPION SPRING Cooking Oil-Parañaque repulsed repeated rallies by King's Bakeshop to prevail, 77-73, at the start of the 2006 Picaa Open basketball tournament Tuesday at the EAC gym in Manila.

Led by former San Sebastian star Aldrin Morante, Spring led by as many as 15 points to get the headstart in the 45-day tourney sponsored by Chloe Lightings and Tomish Cafe (Dapitan).

Morante ably directed plays for the Cooking Oil Masters of shooting champion Nathaneil ``Tac" Padilla, scoring 14 points while issuing timely assists to Mark Yee and Rodel Manuel.

Pearl Manila Hotel-Emilio Aguinaldo College toppled National Interclub champion Wang's Ballclub, 85-82, in the other game.

The scores:

SPRING 77—Morante 14, Yee 10, Manuel 10, Yambao 9, Tiongco 7, De Castro 7, Reyes 6, Neo 6, Mopera 6, Barnson 2.

KINGS BAKESHOP 73—Zablan 18, David 9, Bernados 7, Marucot 7, Gadlane 6, Mendiola 5, Corbin 5, De Guia 5, Torrente 5, Cordero 4, Litonjua 2, Palaganas 0, Tuble 0, Veranga 0, Dela Rosa 4.

Quarters: 22-17, 46-33, 60-53, 77-73.

There must be a Razon

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HE BEGAN HIS BENEVOLENCE, no, better yet, philanthropic ways, in the recent SEA Games.

Not many knew about it but it was Ricky Razon who virtually single-handedly bankrolled our hosting the SEA Games golf competitions. He did it quietly. No frills. No nothing.

No less than Benny Gopez, then president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines, in a TV interview over ABC5 acknowledged Razon's stupendous help.

"I cannot thank Mr. Razon enough for his huge help that ensured not only the success of the golf competitions but also the victory of our golfers," said Gopez moments after we swept the individual and team gold medals in men's play to add to our silver-silver finish in women's competition.

Based on a ballpark figure, Razon must have shelled out no less than P3 million in training, housing, food and transportation expenses for our two national teams in the SEA Games. And this is not to mention Ricky shouldering the food requirements of almost everybody involved during the competitions at The Country Club, venue of the SEA Games event.

Amazingly, Razon did what he did, well, just for the love of the game; his departed father was a rabid golfer. Ricky himself is a single-digit handicap.

"I will salute Mr. Razon forever," said Vice Adm Louie Fernandez, the erstwhile NGAP secretary general, who had been the closest NGAP man to Razon before, during and even after the SEA Games. "His unselfish stance towards golf is one of a kind. And he is a gentleman of the first order."

And just when everybody thought Razon, who also hosts the yearly Razon Cup at The Country Club that gives the winner a million bucks, was through with golf sponsorships in the amateur backyard, the ICTSI top honcho returns—again, with a big bang.

Barely a month after the SEA Games, Razon committed himself to financing the training of our national golf pool.

Thus, beginning last January, Razon had 10 male and 10 female golfers, many of them junior golfers, housed somewhere in Laguna not far from The Country Club. They will undergo the most exhaustive training ever under NGAP-appointed coaches Bong Lopez and Chris Guerrero, with the tireless Nestor Mendoza as Razon's conduit to the NGAP under newly elected president Larry Mendoza.

Among the newcomers in the pool are Mia Piccio of Bacolod and other jungolfers of note, including Dottie Ardina, Cyna Rodriguez and recently-crowned Philippine Ladies Open champion Debbie de Villa.

I like the first rule on training crafted by Bong Lopez: Parents of jungolfers are off-limits to the golfers' quarters and training venues like The Country Club, Mt. Malarayat and Canlubang. That should give our hopefuls a much-needed distraction-free training—a first in the nation's golf history.

Speaking of courses, may the others also allow their layouts free use of our national training pool members?

Range that against Ricky Razon's extremely remarkable efforts in supporting golf which would extend up to the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December, that'd be just peanuts.

If there must be a Razon, there must also be cooperation from everybody to bring back that elusive golf renaissance we've been all harking about all these years.

***

FASTBREAK. Rod Feliciano's NGAP-organized DHL-WWWExpress Golf Championship at Canlubang, now on its 11th year, has now become truly international, what with a foreign field of 23 in attendance coming from Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam. The event, drawing nearly 120 male and female participants, now ranks as one of the majors in amateur golf in South East Asia. Cheers!

***

Comments to menju

Sta. Elena Cup starts

MULTI-AWARDED STA. ELENA GOLF Club celebrates the 10th year of its member-guest invitational, the Sta. Elena Cup, with four days of competition starting today. Trooping to the Sta. Elena course are the first two batches of the 226 member-guest playing in the morning and afternoon shotguns at 7 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., respectively.

They will be the first to take a crack at the four hole-in-one prizes up for grabs: a BMW 3-Series, a Toyota Camry, a Mazda 3 and a Yamaha golf cart with a combined value of almost P4 million.

Sponsors include Omega, Mizuno, Royal Carribean, The Golf Shop of Baron Travel, Sta. Elena Properties, Pepsi, Aviva and Intellicare. Venzon Paz and Bobby Inigo will defend the overall title.

Ozamiz Cotta rips Pagadian

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING champion Ozamiz Cotta routed expansion team Pagadian, 108-97, in the 2006 NBC national basketball championship Tuesday night at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Led by Ozamiz native Gerry Cavan, who fired 9-of-15 from three-point territory, Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers raced to a 29-16 lead after 10 minutes and never looked back in their first outing.

Cavan, a transferee from Iligan, also had two rebounds, two steals and two assists but it was Billy Bansil who garnered best player of the game honors with 14 points and 14 rebounds, plus five assists, two steals and a block.

Despite the arrival from Indonesia of ace gunner Peter Naron, the Explorers of Mayor Sammy Co did not have enough firepower to match Ozamiz, which also paraded former Talk 'N Text player Allan Salangsang.

Hoops in QC lures big cast

HOOPS IN QC, recently at Our Lady of Mercy School along Commonwealth Ave., drew a record number of participants from nearby subdivisions and schools. Growee Hoops School will be at the Meralco Gym, 9-11 a.m., starting April 3. HOOPS is founded by former PBL Commissioner Charlie Favis and Bobby Parks, is co-sponsored by PCSO, Accel, Spalding, Sunbolt, Mossimo, and Konka. Call 687-4364, 687-2025 and 688-0167 for details. Registration fee is P1,500 for seven sessions.

Summer tour

THE COUNTRY'S PROMISING jins showcase their talent and skills when action in taekwondo competitions of the SM summer tour kicks off April 3-4 at SM North Edsa. Taekwondo is just one of the featured events in this year's summer sports circuit put up by the SM chain of malls in its effort to contribute to the country's sports programs.

Sidelights

World-class tennis action at the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championship

PAMPERED.

One word that keeps the top juniors the world over coming to Manila for the Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships, now on its 17th edition at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Not only the participants are given full hospitality -- free hotel accommodations with their coach, as long as they are playing, plus food allowances, as well as free transportation from the hotel to the venue -- but also are treated with such amenities as breakfast on opening day and lunch buffet on the final day.

But what the boys and girls, especially the "Balik-Lancers," are keenly anticipating is the Fellowship Night where participants, their coaches and guests are treated to a "soft" night of music, food, games and raffles. Prizes are also given to the game winners and the raffle.

• • • •

Sanam Singh of India, who is playing in his third Mitsubishi Lancer tourney, is hoping that he will finally bring home the bacon this year.

Singh, the International Tennis Federation's No. 5 player from Chandigargh, India, has been at it since the 15th edition of the tournament. He was a mere qualifier in 2004 eventually losing in his first round match in the main draw.

If i play well, I can win this tournament," said Singh, who started playing the sport when he was eight years old and lost in the round-of-16 singles last year but was rewarded with the doubles championship with compatriot Vivek Shokeen. They beat the pair of Lee-Llewellyn, 6-7 (6), 6-1, 6-4.

Singh said that aside from the hospitality, he enjoys playing in Manila where he is truly comfortable.

"Compared to Manila, the climate is very hot in Bangkok and I'm more comfortable playing in cooler climates. I hope to do well here," Singh bared

Kalikasan fun bike April 30

THE KALIKASAN FUN BIKE WILL ONCE AGAIN run through the streets of Metro Manila in its fourth staging on April 30 from 6-10 a.m.

Starting point of the event supported by ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan will be the CCP Complex wherein a special program and raffle prizes will be held right after the fun bike. Special entertainment numbers will be given by guests celebrities in the event which is a continuous advocacy of APL Advertising to promote environmental protection and cycling as an alternative means of transportation and healthy sports.

More than 3,000 cyclists from Metro Manila and Luzon are expected to join.

Hitachi Air Conditioners, ACCEL, DENR, DZMM, San Miguel Corp., VIVA Mineral Water, MP Apparel, Red Bull, Don Antonio Pizza, and Moon Dish are the other bakcers. For sponsorship, registration, and information, call APL Advertising at 7422587 or e-mail apl_events@yahoo.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Wedding halts network wars

By Nini Valera

THE NETWORK WARS STOPPED momentarily as ABS-CBN star Claudine Barretto and GMA 7 contract artist Raymart Santiago walked down the aisle at the golf course in Tagaytay Highlands on Monday.

Top executives of both networks were paired with each other in the parade of sponsors: ABS-CBN's Gabby Lopez walked with GMA 7's Wilma Galvante; Felipe Gozum with Malu Santos; Charo Santos-Concio with Jimmy Duavit, among others.

But the most applauded duo were Star Magic's Johnny Manahan and Dr. Vicki Belo.

Resplendent in a suit and looking very dignified, Manahan's rare appearance in formal garb amused the stars whose careers he helped shaped.

No one, however, could outshine the bride.

Clinging to her father Miguel's arm, Claudine looked every inch like an ethereal goddess in her gown by Randy Ortiz.

Magical

These were just some of the magical scenes recounted to INQUIRER Entertainment by Star Magic manager Rikka Dylim.

"They got their wish for a solemn wedding," said Dylim, Claudine's longtime friend and talent manager.

A drizzle stalled the ceremony for about 10 minutes. But after the shower, everything else went on smoothly, recounted Dylim.

"The ceremony was short, barely an hour," Dylim added.

Raymart cried when he read his vows. He explained later that his parents Pablo and Cielito Santiago had exchanged vows on the same date 40 years ago.

Claudine also cried when she read her vows, said Dylim.

As if on cue, soft rain fell again shortly after Raymart and Claudine were pronounced man and wife.

Tent party

The wedding guests partied inside the tents set up near the clubhouse. Main catering was by Gaita Forres, and Hizon's laid out a dessert buffet that featured a chocolate fountain.

Gary Valenciano sang "The Prayer" during the ceremonies. Kuh Ledesma sang "Evergreen" during the reception. Piolo Pascual sang "My Gift."

Randy Santiago, Raymart's older brother, and Agot Isidro emceed a short program during the reception. The youngest couple and the oldest couple were picked out from among the guests. Willie Revillame and Liz Almora were the youngest couple; a Japanese pair was named oldest couple.

Single men and women participated in a game in which each one ended up with a Timex watch—a reminder that they didn't have all the time in the world to look for partners.

But for Claudine and Raymart, the search was over.

PIA Guanio: Nothing between me and Vic Sotto.

'We simply grew apart'

Marinel R. Cruz

"THERE'S NO THIRD PARTY INvolved. We simply grew apart. I guess it's because we're of two different worlds," said TV host and commercial model Pia Guanio of her recent breakup with Mike Jacob, her boyfriend of seven years.

Pia is host of programs "Eat... Bulaga!" and "S-Files" on GMA 7, while Mike, younger brother of former swimmer and TV host Christine Jacob, works as a stockbroker.

The normally accommodating Pia tried to dodge entertainment reporters who attended the thanksgiving party of GMA 7's noontime show "Eat Bulaga!" at the Le Pavillon in Pasay City recently.

When she relented, it was just to say, "I thought about it a one

WE SIMPLY/ A2-6

'Sexiest Woman'

NEW YORK—SCARLETT JOHANSson, 21-year-old star of "Lost in Translation," tops a lovely list of the "100 Sexiest Women in the World," in a poll of readers of FHM magazine.

Angelina Jolie is No. 2, followed by Jessica Alba, Jessica Simpson, Keira Knightley, Halle Berry, Jenny McCarthy, Maria Sharapova, Carmen Electra and Teri Hatcher. *AP*

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

Starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726 6150
1: Basic Instinct 2
2: Soon To Open
3: Moments of Love

METROPOLIS Star ALABANG
Tel. No. 850 4285
1: Moments of Love
2: Basic Instinct 2
3: Venom
4: Ice Age 2

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!

Every Tuesdays Stand-Up Comedy. Every Fridays Live Acoustic Bands at Cuba Libre Bar Starmall Edsa
Mondays to Thursdays Live Bands, Every Fridays Stand-Up Comedy at Mark's KTV Metropolis Alabang
Ginoong Filipinas Mall Tour (Apr. 2) Iza Calzado (Apr. 9) Keinna Halili (Apr. 23) Metropolis Alabang
River Maya (Apr. 7) Center For Pop (Apr. 2, Apr. 23) Kamikazee (Apr. 22) Starmall Edsa.

American Idol
SEASON FINALE: FIRST ON STAR WORLD
WIN A TRIP TO L.A.!
Get your application forms at the Glorietta Customer Service Booth or log on to www.startv.com/idol for more details.
STAR WORLD WED AND THU
6PM VIA SATELLITE, 8PM PRIMETIME
Magic 89.9 BayanTel Cherifer PGM 10-22 Orlistat Xenical

Rustom denies hiding a Benz

Friends from US trying to collect $42,458

By Nini Valera

RUSTOM PADILLA, THE "PINOY BIG Brother Celebrity Edition" housemate who opted for a voluntary exit from the show last week, said his leaving had nothing to do with a letter of demand from a Fil-Am couple asking him to settle an alleged debt.

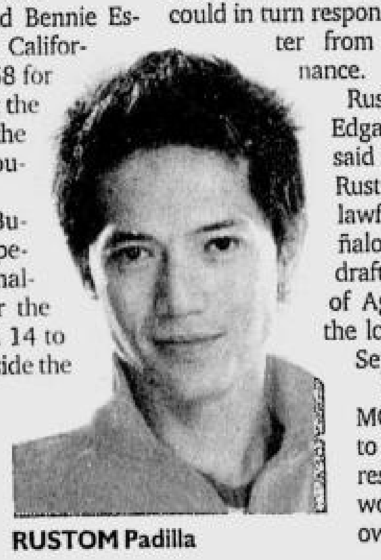
The couple, Julius and Bennie Espina of Woodland Hills, California, are collecting $42,458 for a Mercedes Benz car that the actor had bought in the United States using the couple's credit line.

They asked National Bureau of Investigation Special Task Force Chief Reynaldo Esmeraldo to deliver the demand letter on March 14 to Rustom, who was still inside the PBB house at the time.

Cut off

Rustom, 38, left "PBB" on March 23. Before his exit, he had been cut off from all communication with people outside the house. This is one of the rules of the show, which puts together 12 people under one roof and broadcasts their life together.

Esmeraldo said the Espinas were his personal friends. In their letter, the couple asked Rustom to return the car or inform them of its whereabouts so they could in turn respond to a demand letter from Chase Auto Finance.



RUSTOM Padilla

Rustom's counsel Edgar Allan Morante said in a statement that Rustom had asked the lawfirm, Cayton, Peñalosa & Manzano to draft a Memorandum of Agreement to settle the loan on Sept. 8 and Sept. 21 last year.

Morante said the MOA had been sent to the Espinas, who responded that they would consult their own lawyer. He said he had not heard from the couple since.

Rustom refused to discuss the situation, saying that he loved the Espinas with whom he stayed in the United States in 2004 and 2005.

"Whatever misunderstanding we have is between us," he said. "I don't want to talk about it. I don't want to explain. I don't want them to get hurt or anybody to get hurt. I know that we can settle this among ourselves."

But he stressed that he was not hiding from them, or hiding the car.

"I have no plans of hiding the car," he said. "I don't want to elaborate, either."

Morante said that all correspondence between Rustom and the Espinas are now being prepared "to settle the issue in accordance with the law."

Are dark spots worrying you? Underarms, Nape, Groin & Freckles
with Miracle Whitening Cream Whiter Skin in 7 Days!

Worried about
ACNE SCARS, UNEVEN SKIN TONE, & OPEN PORES?
WITH
Ellen's

"With Ellen's, you will never go wrong... A perfect, confident and a youthful skin!"
-Clifford Ponce Cabin Crew

DIAMOND FACIAL LASER TREATMENT
all your worries are gone...
TIMOG • WEST AVE. • LIBIS • MANILA • LAS PIÑAS • ANGELES • SAN FERNANDO • TARLAC • OLONGAPO • CAVITE • CEBU
CALL: 374 6665 - 438 8072 - 413 6357 - 740 3242 - 805 5626 - CEBU: (032) 255 0674

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY Gateway CINEPLEX*10 DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

MOMENTS OF LOVE 12.30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN 12:30 / 2:50 / 5.10 / 7:30 / 9:50	BASIC INSTINCT 2 1:50 / 4.30 / 7:10 / 9.50	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
JUST FRIENDS 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	VENOM 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	ICE AGE 2 12 20 / 2 30 / 4 40 / 6:50 / 9:00 HOSTEL 7:35 / 9:40	ICE AGE 2 1.55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
NANNY McPHEE 12 50 / 3 00 / 5.10 SHE'S THE MAN 1.40 / 4 20 / 7.00 / 9 40	V FOR VENDETTA 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	ULTRAVIOLET 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	ONLY P128 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS

1	MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	2	LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8.40	BASIC INSTINCT 2 12.45 / 3:25 / 6:05 / 8.45
4	ICE AGE 2 12:15 R4 / 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35	5	VENOM 12:40 / 2 40 / 4:40 / 6:40 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

SHARON CUNETA MY MEGA VALENTINE - THE REPEAT MARCH 31, FRIDAY 8 pm	REX SMITH LIVE IN MANILA APRIL 1, SATURDAY 8 pm

HAIR LOSS?
Never Again!

FOR YOUR FALLING HAIR
Get Hair Reinforcer Ultra-Remedy

Are your hair strands falling at an alarming rate? Do you see more and more of them on your pillow, on your brush or on your hand when you shampoo? End your excessive falling hair problem with professional help from **Svenson International**. Our **Hair Reinforcer Ultra-Remedy** will strengthen your brittle strands, protect your hair from severe shedding and maintain its naturally lush look.

If you value your hair, trust Svenson.
Call us today for a FREE consultation.

WOMEN AT Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKB Center
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

Rufa Mae's tears not just for Duncan

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

RUFA MAE QUINTO COULDN'T HOLD BACK her tears on "S.O.P" last Sunday when asked for her "farewell" message to South Border. The band is touring the US for several months. Rufa is being linked to vocalist **Duncan Ramos.**

I asked why she cried. She said, "I will really miss them. But I'm happy for them. They deserve this big break. We're all very close, including their wives. We were together last Christmas and New Year's Eve. When my mom was hospitalized, and then me, too, they were the first ones to rush over."

So it's not just because of Duncan?

"If not for Dunx, I won't get to meet the rest of the band. He's the one closest to me, but for so many reasons, *di pwedeng maging kami*. We are happy with the way things are," said Ms Bombshell.

Heard that **Marvin Agustin**'s rumored girlfriend/model **Lani Pillinger** is wary that Marvs is again being paired with **Jolina Magdangal.** Lani is the pretty girl in the Nescafé ad with Hale. She has no reason to be jealous because Jolens has a boyfriend (**Bebong Muñoz**). Perhaps she's just a bit envious of the amount of time that Marvs has to spend with Jolens shooting their movie/soap.

Heard that before joining "Pinoy Big Brother," **Uma Khouny** applied to be one of the hosts of the now defunct show "Out?" Since that show had catered to the third sex, could the talks about Uma's being gay turn out to be true after all?

What an uncanny coincidence that **Claudine Barretto** and **Raymart Santiago**'s wedding was held 2 days before **Rico Yan**'s 4th death anniversary. Past is past. But somehow previous relationships shape our hearts for our next love.

Star texts

I TEXTED my *kumare* **Lorna Tolentino** to check on the condition of **Rudy Fernandez**: "He's getting better. Still recuperating. Thanks for your prayers."

From **Suzie Entrata-Abrera**: "Gave birth on March 27 to a girl. Paolo and I named her Maria Antonella. ' Our tiny princess weighed 5.15 lbs. What a blessing!"

I texted **Alfred Vargas** to ask about the real score between him and **LJ Reyes.** He texted back: "As show biz as this sounds, we're just friends."

Echo's Scents

IT WAS a delight to be at Natasha's raffle draw in Megamall Cinema 2 for **Jericho Rosales**' line of fragrances. The place was packed. 10 lucky "Echonians" won all-expenses paid trips for two to Boracay. Echo gamely serenaded his adoring fans and brought the house down with his punch lines. It was my first time to watch him *live*. I didn't know he had the gift of gab. Echo ought to host a talk show aside from his *telefantasya* to show off his bubbly side. He's got different scents to match his various moods—Pipe Line, Fin Throw, Reefbreak, Apex, Torque and Turbo charge. And of course the sweet smell of success.

Viktoria's back

AFTER winning a gold at the 23rd SEA Games, MTV Queen **Viktoria** is back with a new music video for her latest single "Nalalasing." She teamed up with heartthrob **Rich Vergara** in the sizzling video, a track from her new album "Here to Stay."

Viktoria describes her new album as less electronic. "It's raw, sweet & honest. Most of the songs were written when I had no access to my keyboards. I was traveling a lot with just my guitar."

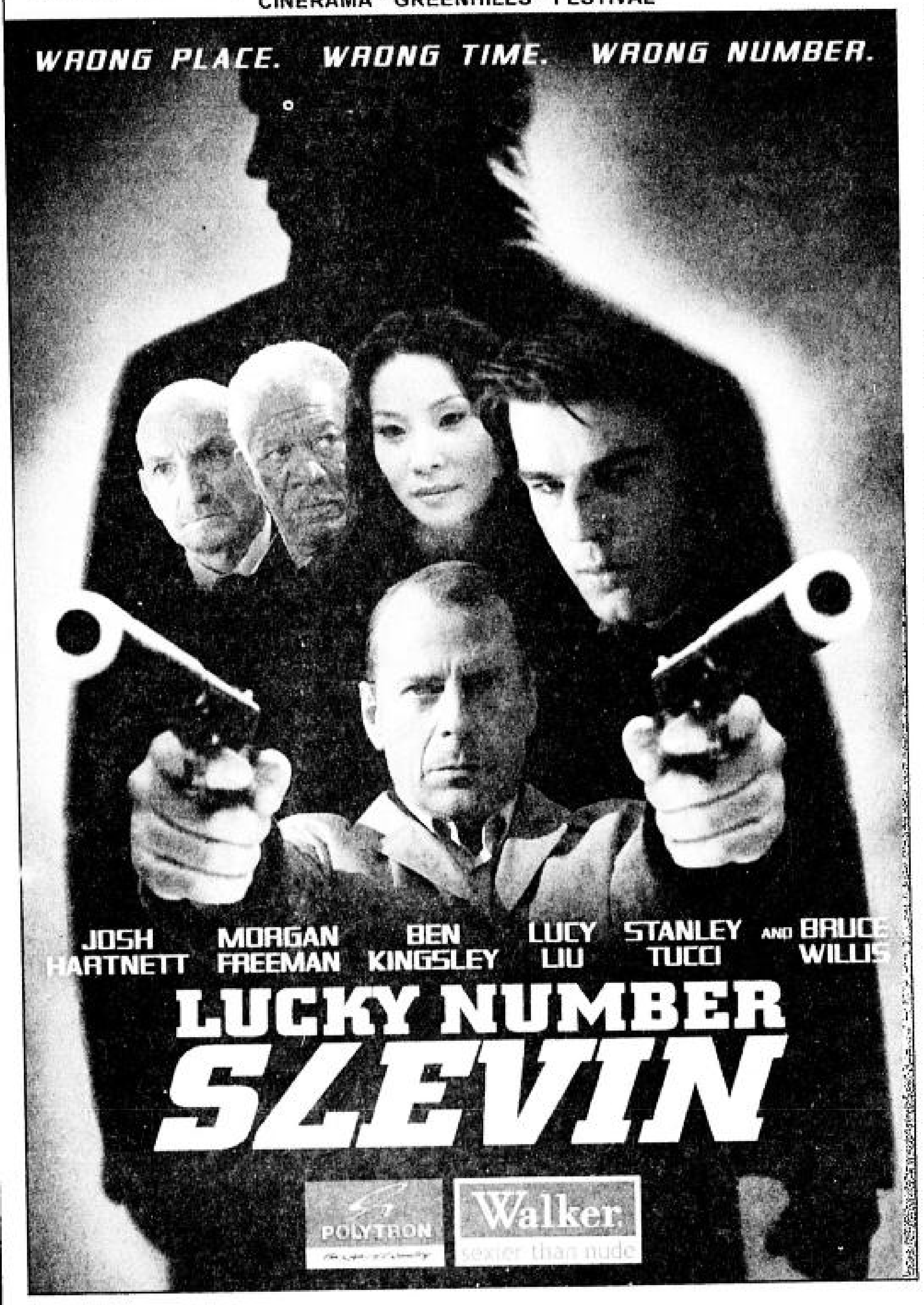
'Alaala'

"ALAALA," a fund raising concert for St. Bernard, Ginsaugon Leyte, will be held on April 7 Friday, 7 p.m. at Merk's, Level 3, Greenbelt 3, Makati). Featured artists are Noel Cabangon, Pilita Corales, Toti Fuentes, Jacqui Magno, Richard Merk, Luke Mejares and Vernie Varga. Call 757-4720 to 21.

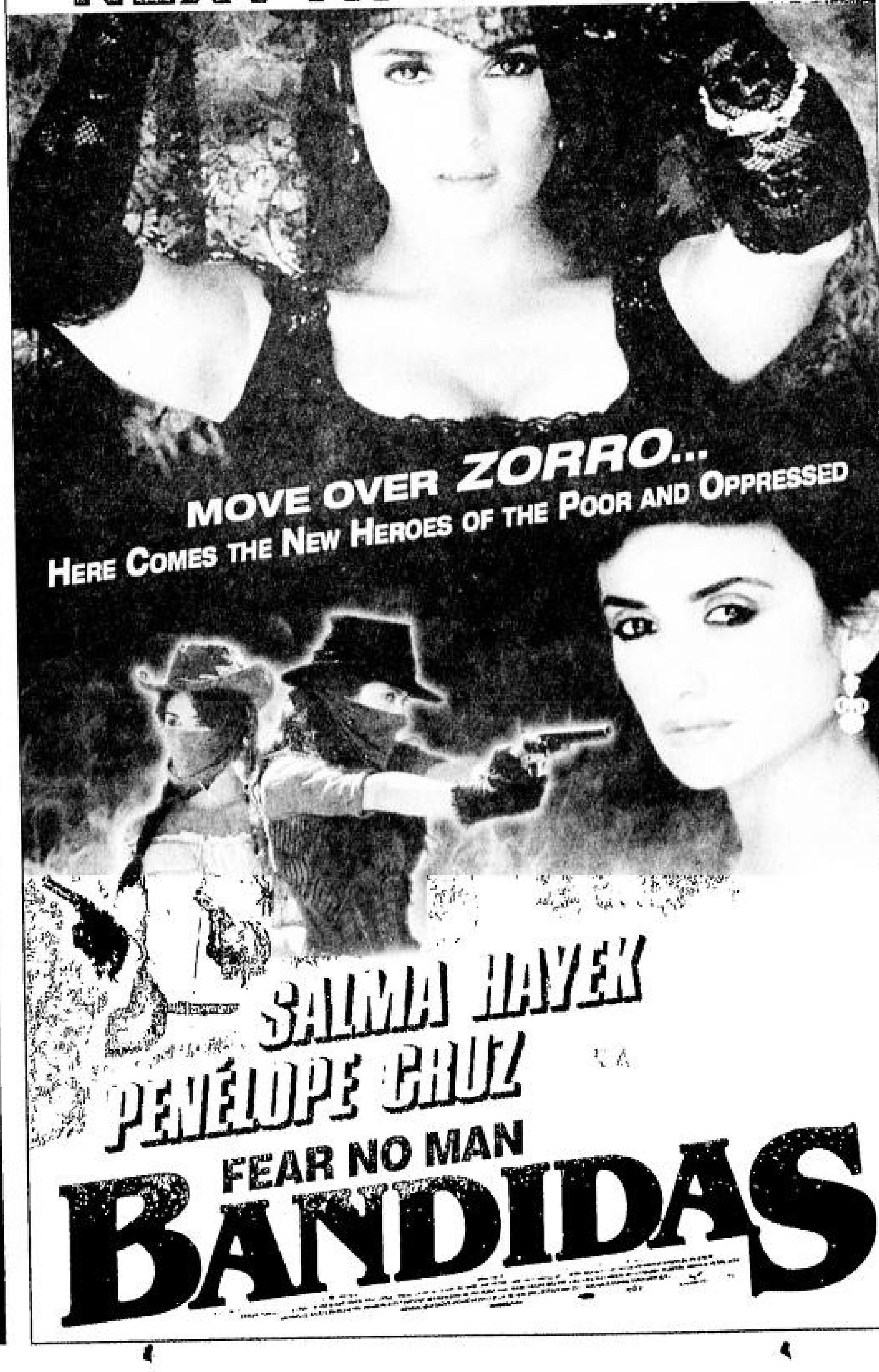
(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.)

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

NOW SHOWING
GLORIETTA 4 * POWERPLANT * GATEWAY * MARKET MARKET * ALI * ROBINSONS * (ERMITA, GALLERIA, METRO EAST, PIONEER, NOVALICHES, IMUS, DASMARINAS)
CINERAMA * GREENHILLS * FESTIVAL



NEXT ATTRACTION



SM CINEMA
movietime
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-0990*
CENTER Stage
LIVE-LARGE
831-1000 loc. 2071, 2073, 2682, 2081
BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

OPENS MARCH 29
Watch Ice Age 2: The Meltdown
from March 29 to April 4 and get a
FREE Monte Vista and Makiling Highlands VIP Card
for every two (2) ticket purchase
This promo is available at the following branches:
Sm Cinema Bacoor, Batangas, Bicutan, Dasmariñas, Fairview, Lucena Manila, Megamall, Molino, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa Sta. Rosa, Southmall, Sucat and Valenzuela and The Podium Cinema.
For single purchase transaction only. Terms and conditions apply. Not applicable with other promos
MTRCB Rating: G
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 2021 Series of 2006

Now you can make her happy
Share a movie with a loved one with SM Cinema's
50%OFF treat on your 2nd ticket!
Starts on March 15 to April 30, 2006
Mondays to Thursdays
enjoy each other's company
commitment
MEGAMALL * STA. MESA * MANILA * PODIUM * FAIRVIEW * SOUTHMALL
NORTH EDSA * SAN LAZARO * STA. ROSA * PAMPANGA * BAGUIO * VALENZUELA
MARILAO * MOLINO** BATANGAS * LUCENA * CEBU * DAVAO* CAGAYAN DE ORO
**Promo starts on April 15, 2006
MEDIA PARTNERS: 96.3WRocK iFM 93.9

METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM
ICE AGE 2
12:15 FS / 12:40 MF / 02:45
04:50 / 06:55 / 08:30 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:30 END
JUST FRIENDS
02:15 FS / 02:45 MF / 04:50
06:55 / 8:30LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:35 END

SM MEGACINEMA
ICE AGE 2
11:20FS / 11:50 MF / 01:55
04:00 / 06:05 / 07:40 LFS
08:10 LMF / 09:40 END
JUST FRIENDS
SHE'S THE MAN
RESERVED
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ICE AGE 2
VENOM
16 BLOCKS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
ICE AGE 2
V FOR VENDETTA
MOMENTS OF LOVEZ
RESERVED
JUST FRIENDS
SHE'S THE MAN
VENOM
ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY DASMARINAS
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
THE DARK
FEARLESS
V FOR VENDETTA
ULTRAVIOLET
JUST FRIENDS
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
NANNY McPHEE
ICE AGE 2
FINAL DESTINATION 3
SHAGGY DOG
SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
ICE AGE 2
JUST FRIENDS
ULTRAVIOLET
SHE'S THE MAN
MOMENTS OF LOVE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
NANNY McPHEE
VENOM
V FOR VENDETTA
SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY BICUTAN
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
VENOM
SHE'S THE MAN
ICE AGE 2
ULTRAVIOLET
JUST FRIENDS
MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY MANILA
ICE AGE 2
VENOM
SHE'S THE MAN
V FOR VENDETTA
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
MOMENTS OF LOVE
THE DARK
FEARLESS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
16 BLOCKS
JUST FRIENDS

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
ICE AGE 2
NANNY McPHEE
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
SHE'S THE MAN
JUST FRIENDS
ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM

SM CITY SUCAT
ICE AGE 2
VENOM
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ULTRAVIOLET

A gift for every Graduate Buy Now!
SM CINEMA
congrats!
The perfect reward for movie lovers this Graduation Season
Get complimentary passes when you buy in bulk
Now available at the SM Cinema branch nearest you or please call 831 1000 loc 2680 for inquiries

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
VENOM
MOMENTS OF LOVE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
ICE AGE 2

SM CITY MARILAO
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ULTRAVIOLET
MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
MOMENTS OF LOVE
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ICE AGE 2
16 BLOCKS

SM CITY BACOOR
V FOR VENDETTA
SHE'S THE MAN
ICE AGE 2
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA
VENOM
THE DARK
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ICE AGE 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
VENOM
ICE AGE 2
SHE'S THE MAN
SHAGGY DOG
MOMENTS OF LOVE
MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY LUCENA
16 BLOCKS
ICE AGE 2
THE DARK
MOMENTS OF LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
RESERVED
VENOM
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:10
02:50 / 04:30 / 06:10
07:50 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 10:55 END
ICE AGE 2
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
03:30 / 05:30 / 09:05 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
V FOR VENDETTA
CASANOVA
BREAKING NEWS
MOMENTS OF LOVE
HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY ILOILO
GLORY ROAD
RESERVED
ICE AGE 2
FINAL DESTINATION 3
MOMENTS OF LOVE
SHAGGY DOG
RESERVED
V FOR VENDETTA

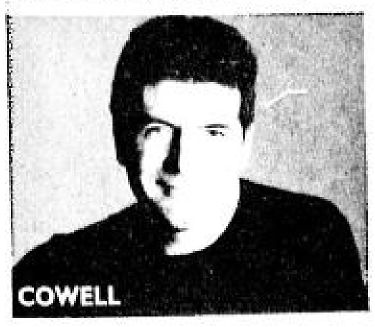
SM CITY DAVAO
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
NEW WORLD
MOMENTS OF LOVE
HOUSE OF FURY
VENOM
ICE AGE 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN
VENOM
FINAL DESTINATION 3
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ICE AGE 2

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ENTERTAINMENT

ROUNDUP



COWELL

Simon's new show

LOS ANGELES—SINGERS, COMEDIANS, jugglers, animal acts and anyone else hungry for stardom will be welcome on "America's Got Talent," the summertime series that Simon Cowell, the tart-tongued judge on Fox's "American Idol," is producing for NBC.

All are eligible to try for the $1 million prize, he told a telephone news conference Monday. "You can be 2 years old, 100 years old. You can be the next Destiny's Child, Jackson 5 or David Copperfield. This show is literally open to anybody." *AP*

'Ocean's 13'

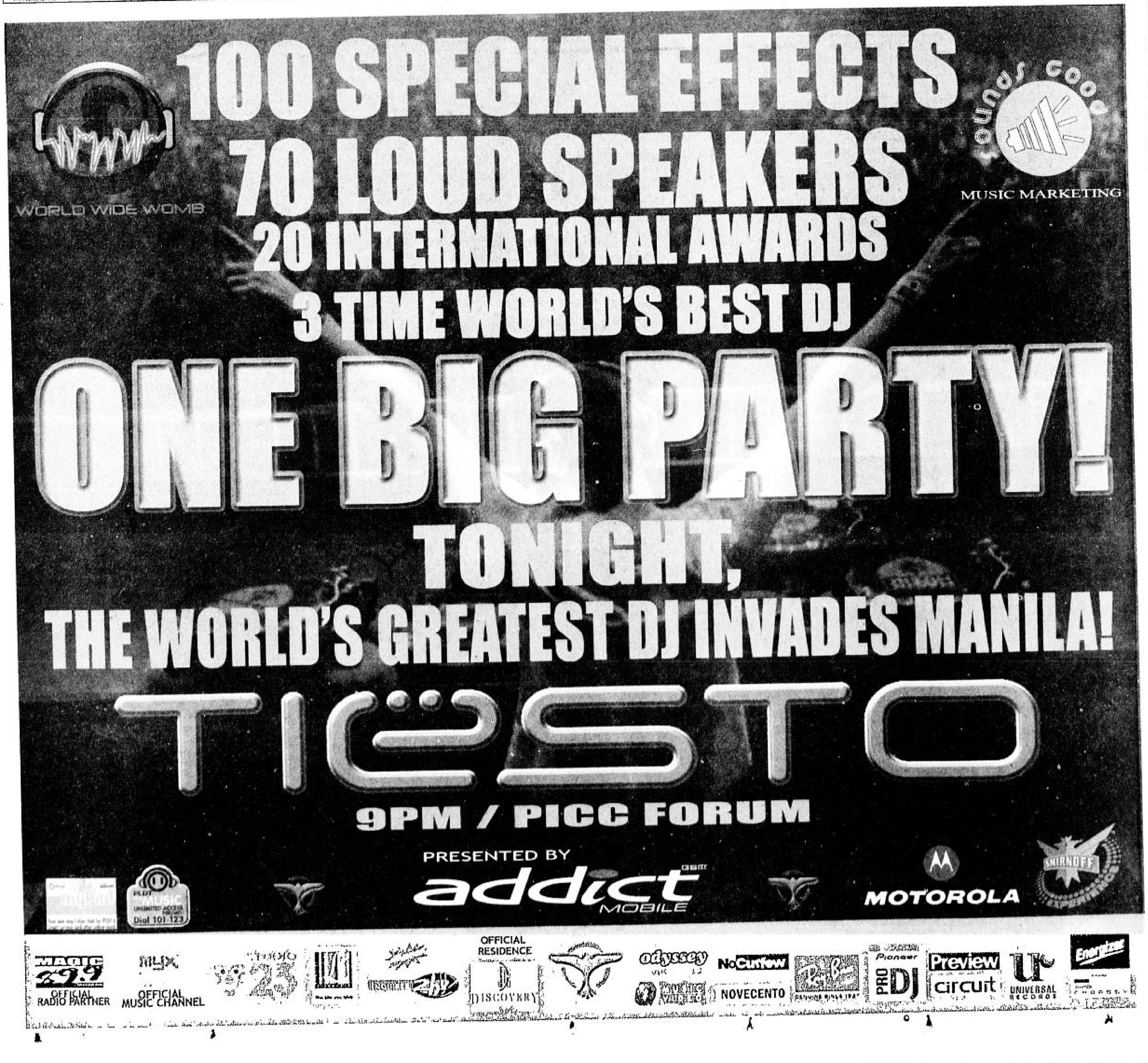
LOS ANGELES—GEORGE CLOONEY and Brad Pitt are pairing up anew for "Ocean's 13," the third movie in the successful crime film franchise that started with "Ocean's Eleven."

Together, "Eleven" and "Ocean's Twelve" earned more than $800 million worldwide.

Producer Jerry Weintraub would divulge only one "secret" of the new movie: "There's going to be a heist." *Reuters*

NEXT ATTRACTION
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
IT'S "AMERICAN PIE" MEETS "THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN"
AN ALL-STAR POWERHOUSE CAST!!!
DORIS ROBERTS star of EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND
LINDA CARDELLINI star of BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
FEATURING: The Cousin of King Kong HARRY THE KARATE CHIMP
ALLEN COVERT star of THE LONGEST YARD
DAVID SPADE star of SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
ROB SCHNEIDER star of DEUCE BIGALOW
From Producer ADAM SANDLER
GRANDMA'S BOY

NOW SHOWING
GRADED "B" BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD
THIS SUMMER, PREPARE TO WITNESS AN EXTRAORDINARY LOVE STORY
she lives in the past... he lives in the present... can love defy the bounds of time?
Moments of Love
A FILM BY MARK A. REYES V.
DINGDONG DANTES IZA CALZADO KARYLLE
"The cinematography, the set design, even the mood of the film contributed heavily sa taas ng production value." - Diana Eroca (Tonight)
"A wonderful, beautiful movie." - Sharon Cuneta
"Moments of Love is a movie to be proud of." - Crispina Martinez-Belen (Manila Bulletin)
"A well-made commercial film that is pleasant to look at and is a grand romance at its best." - Mario Bautista (People's Journal)
MTRCB ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
Text MOMENTS ON to 4627 for Smart / Talk 'N Text or 2364 for Globe / Sun
GMA FILMS



100 SPECIAL EFFECTS
70 LOUD SPEAKERS
20 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
3 TIME WORLD'S BEST DJ
ONE BIG PARTY!
TONIGHT,
THE WORLD'S GREATEST DJ INVADES MANILA!
TIËSTO
9PM / PICC FORUM
WORLD WIDE WOMB
SOUNDS GOOD MUSIC MARKETING
PRESENTED BY addict MOBILE
PLDT MUSIC UNLIMITED ACCESS Dial 101-123
MOTOROLA
SMIRNOFF EXPERIENCE
MAGIC 89.9 OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER
MYX OFFICIAL MUSIC CHANNEL
STUDIO 23
OFFICIAL RESIDENCE DISCOVERY
odyssey
NoCurfew
NOVECENTO
Pioneer PRO DJ
Preview
circuit
UNIVERSAL RECORDS
Energizer

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	BASIC INSTINCT 2	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-18
2	ICE AGE 2	1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:30	G
3	ICE AGE 2	12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00	G
4	VENOM	2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00	R-13

'Silver: The Songs of Vehnee Saturno'

SHOW TIME

VEHNEE SATURNO IS ONE OF THE country's best and most successful contemporary songwriters. His hit compositions include "Be My Lady," "Forever's Not Enough," "How Could You Say You Love Me," "From the Star," "Isang Lahi," "Mula Sa Puso," "Sana Kahit Minsan," "Simple Lang," "Di Ba't Ikaw Paano Kaya," "Dahil Tanging Ikaw," and "Wala Na Bang Pag-Ibig."

These songs were popularized by some of the biggest names in the industry.

On May 26 at the Araneta Coliseum, these songs will be performed by today's popular artists in a special fund-raising concert, "Silver: Songs of Vehnee Saturno."

Celebrating the composer's 25th anniversary in the music industry, the concert will also benefit the Sta. Maria Goretti Parish within the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in Manila. Main performers are Jay-R, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista and Juris Fernandez and Chin Alcantara of MYMP.

Guests are Jaya, Ella Mae Saison, The CompanY and Martin Nievera. Call 911-5555.

Rex Smith at Hard Rock

HARD ROCK Café and Steve O'Neal Productions present American balladeer Rex Smith in what is billed as an "intimate" concert on Sunday, at 9:30 p.m.

Smith last visited the country in 2002 for a two-night Valentine show at the Araneta Coliseum.

Call 893-4661 to 64.

Mega repeat

SHARON Cuneta's "My Mega Valentine" concert at the Araneta Coliseum will have a repeat tomorrow, 8 p.m.

She will have the same array of special guests—Kuh Ledesma, Christopher de Leon, Christian Bautista, Noelle Cassandra and Martin Nievera. Louie Ocampo is the musical director, and Johnny Manahan is stage director.

Call 911-5555 or 8151953.

Tonight

DJ Tiësto at the Philippine International Convention Center with DJ Manolet "Mano" Dario; 10 p.m.

Margie Floirendo, Maan Hontiveros, Carmita Franci Romualdez in the mu Still Hot!" at Teatrin Shopping Center. Call 89

Ogie Alcasid at Bagah

Mocha at Tavern on t

Moments at RJ Guita

Acoustic Jive at Merk

Brownman Revival a Place Manila

Sitti Navarro at Mani Boulvar Lounge

Brownman Revival a Place Manila

Tomorrow

Raymond Lauchenco's "Classic Romance" peat concert at the Mu Museum with Ay Munji-Laurel a Menchu Lauchengco-Y lo

Margie Floirend, **Maan Hontiveros, Carn**ta Francisco and **Nina R**mualdez in the music "We're Still Hot!" at Teat

FROM left, Mark Bautist Fernandez and Chin Alca

'Jologs' s with a

THE FIRST TIME WE watched Channel 7's new show, "Jologs" (Sundays, 7 p.m.), we didn't get much of anything at all because its hosts, Ethel Booba, Pekto and Rainier Castillo, acted so shrill and hyper all throughout.

They seemed bent on establishing their credentials as *jologs,* when in

NOW SHOWING IN THE FOLLOWING THEATERS:
GLORIETTA 1&4. GREENBELT 1&3. POWERPLANT. Shangri-La. Gateway. Festival. Alabang Town. Robinson's (ERMITA, GALLERIA, METROEAST, PIONEER, NOVALICHES,LETRE). CINERAMA. Goteco City. ROBEN. WalterMart MAKATI. Market-Market. EastWood. BLUEWAVE. Sta. Lucia. Starmall. ABC. Ali Mall. Greenhills. REMAR. Metropolis. Gotesco GRAND. Gotesco COMMONWEALTH. Masagana PASAY. (CEBU) Ayala. EMALL. Oriente. Cineplex. Cinema. (DAVAO) Gaizano. Victoria. JS. NCCC.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

SEDUCTION MANIPULATION PERVERSION
Everything begins in the mind.

APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS!
SHARON STONE
BASIC INSTINCT 2

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	VENOM	10:45 , 1:05 , 3:20 , 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10	R13
CINEMA 2	LUCKY SLEVIN	11:40 , 2:15 , 4:50, 7:25 , 10:00	R18

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	ICE AGE 2	12:20 , 2:45 , 5:10, 7:35 , 10:00	GP
CINEMA 4	BASIC INSTINCT 2	11:10 , 1:35 ,4:00, 6:25 , 8:50	R18
CINEMA 5	ICE AGE 2	10:30 , 12:50 ,3:15 5:40 , 8:05 , 10:30	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

MARCH 30 ,2006	RICO J. PUNO	9:00PM
MARCH 31 ,2006	RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO	8:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY MARCH 30 & 31, 2006	TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC. 116	7:00PM 9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Lovemall!

AT THE CINEMAS THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	3 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 VENOM	2 JUST FRIENDS	3 THX BASIC INSTINCT 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RENT	5 NANNY MCPHEE	6 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	7 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 JUST FRIENDS	2 BASIC INSTINCT 2		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JUST FRIENDS GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 RENT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BASIC INSTINCT 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN		
	3 JUST FRIENDS	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	5 VENOM	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	2 BASIC INSTINCT 2	3 VENOM	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 MOMENTS OF LOVE	2 VENOM		
	3 JUST FRIENDS	4 BASIC INSTINCT 2	5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853. from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Installment Madness March 15 to 31, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Child Development Center of Cebu's Culminating Activities March 30, 2006	Levi's Engineered Freedom Park April 1 & 2, 2006

GREENBELT — Ayala Museum Summer Workshop Sampler
April 1, 2006 - Greenbelt 3 Park

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents 7 NG UMAGA
at REP's Globe Theater - March 24, 25, 26, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Registration is now ongoing for Ayala Museum's Summer Art Festival Workshop 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

The much-awaited film version of the award-winning Broadway musical
RENT
"MUST SEE FILM OF THE YEAR"
"TWO THUMBS UP"
NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

Stargazing at Glorietta 4 Park
Featuring the stars of

Moments of Love
glorietta
Ayala Malls

Guest starring:
SHAMROCK BAND
FAITH CUNETA
April 2 (Sunday), 2006
5:30 PM
Glorietta 4 Park

Reserved seats to the first three hundred (300) moviegoers who will present their MOMENTS OF LOVE movie tickets purchased at Glorietta 1 & 4 cinemas on April 2.

Lovemall! BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

2 mad about 'emall!
REAL 0%
SIP
PATROL

Just Got Bigger and Better!

Shop in Ayala Malls using your BPI Express Credit Card for a chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4 in the Grand Draw and fabulous prizes in the Monthly Draws.

From November 25, 2005 to March 31, 2006

For inquiries, Call BPI Express Phone 89-100 Or Log On To www.bpiexpressonline.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

AINM

, Rachelle Ann Go, Vehnee Saturno, Jay-R, Juris ntara.

co and Nina
ical, "We're
. Greenhills
1-9999.
erde Pasig
e Square
Bar
s
Robinson's

la Pavilion's

Robinson's

no, Greenhills Shopping Center. Call 891-9999.

Kearney Street at Tavern on the Square

Wiseguys and Freeway at Virgin Café

The CompanY at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Lounge

April Ramos and Time Machine at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Lounge

Jolina Magdangal at SM City Manila

NTwine at Metro Phi Bar, Metrowalk Complex

REX Smith

April 1

Kuh Ledesma and Bobby Soul of The Platters at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental

Margie Floirendo, Maan Hontiveros, Carmita Francisco and Nina Romualdez in the musical, "We're Still Hot!" at Teatrino, Greenhills Shopping Center. Call 891-9999.

resses the obvious— sledgehammer

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

fact they really didn't have to, because they were clearly to the unmannered unborn.

The show itself was similarly frustrating because it frittered away most of its telecast time in listing the major aspects, indications and "symptoms" of being *jologs*—which viewers already knew, anyway.

We watched "Jologs" again last March 26, and were gratified to see that, while the hosts were still relentlessly, livid and over-the-top, the show itself was more focused.

It zeroed in on *jologs'* difficulty with, and "terror" of, English. It's said that, when *jologs* are required to speak English, they have a mental blackout, they gasp and stammer—and they can even get a nosebleed attack."

This is because they think that speaking English is for "better" or more *"sosyal!"* people, and they "know" they don't qualify, so they get terribly insecure.

All this is counterproductive, of course, especially since Filipinos who want to work abroad need to know English to get ahead.

So, last Sunday's telecast made Booba try out as a travel guide, Pekto as a hotel employee, and Rainier as a call center worker.

Of course, they didn't do well at those unfamiliar and English-intensive jobs, and the show predictably mined their awkward attempts at speaking good English for all of the bitchy humor they had to offer.

Still, the episode ended up as a positive viewing experience, because it did make the point that, bad jokes aside, the issue of English and the Pinoy is an important consideration at this point of our contemporary history.

In the future, however, we wish that the show's hosts, especially the alarming Ethel Booba, give their hysterical projection a rest. We know that they're only trying to be freaky-funny, but their sledgehammer approach is really much too desperate for comfort.

Relax—and give your show a chance.

'My Mega Valentine'

SHARON Cuneta's hit show, "My Mega Valentine" will have a repeat staging tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. The show has a repertoire of love songs done the Louie Ocampo way. Composers represented include **Ryan Cayabyab, Ogie Alcasid**, the Carpenters, **Barry Manilow** and **Willy Cruz**.

Guests are Kuh Ledesma, **Christopher de Leon, Christian Bautista,** and harpist **Noelle Cassandra. Johnny Manahan** directs. Call 911-5555.

Movies on HBO

HBO screens these films for the month of April, so watch out for them:

"Back to the Future, Part 2" with **Michael J. Fox** and **Christopher Lloyd**, executive-produced by **Steven Spielberg**.

"Big Fish." Will (**Billy Crudup**) attempts to reconnect with his father (**Albert Finney**) in his last days, but can discover the truths about him only through the recollections of his mother (**Jessica Lange**).

"Disclosure," with **Michael Douglas, Demi Moore** and **Donald Sutherland**. An executive fights for his professional and personal life after he's accused of sexual harassment.

"Lady Jane" with **Helena Bonham Carter** as Lady Jane Grey, who becomes the pawn in the plot to maintain Protestant rule in England after King Henry VIII's death.

"McHale's Navy," a breezy comedy starring **Tim Curry** and **Tom Arnold**.

"Out of Africa," starring **Meryl Streep** and **Robert Redford**.

"Surviving Picasso," with **Anthony Hopkins** as Pablo Picasso, and **Natasha McElhone** as Francoise Gilot, his much younger model and mistress.

"The First Wives Club" with **Bette Midler, Diane Keaton** and **Goldie Hawn**.

Plus: "The Mambo Kings," "The Neverending Story 2," "The Notebook," "The Stepford Wives," and "True Lies."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN **R18** 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	**BASIC INSTINCT 2** **R18** 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:20	**NANNY MCPHEE** **G** 12:00,2:10,4:20, 6:35,9:00
JUST FRIENDS **R13** 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	**VENOM** **R13** 1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40	**ICE AGE 2** **G** 11:30,1:30,3:30, 5:30,7:30,9:30

[illegible]
MATINEE P111.00 – FREE SEATING – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① ICE AGE 2
MTRCB: GP
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 LMF

② NANNY MCPHEE
MTRCB GP 2 00, 6 40
JUST FRIENDS
MTRCB R-13 4 20 9 00

③ BASIC INSTINCT 2
MTRCB: R-18
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

④ VENOM
MTRCB R-13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE ICE AGE 2
MTRCB GP 2:15, 4 25, 6 35, 8 45 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

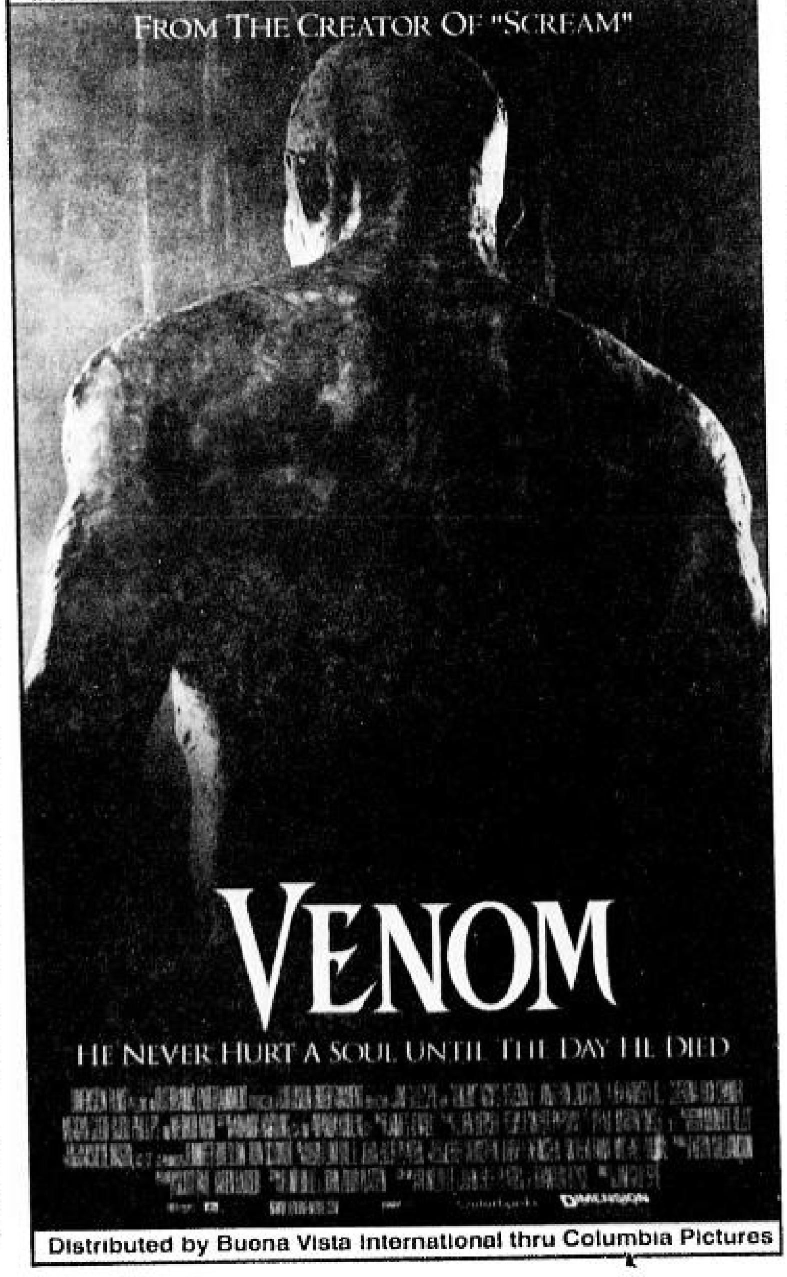
Catch the Cineplex Special
Come and enjoy big discounts on leading brands
at the SHANG SPRING SALE
MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2, mall-wide
Up to 70% off on selected items
Per DTI-Permit Number A3-251. Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

HOT!
NIÑA ROMUALDEZ
LYNN SHERMAN
SHAMAINE CENTENERA
AND PINKY MARQUEZ

SCHERING HSBC the world's local bank PLDT
present
we're still hot! THE MUSICAL
Teatrino at the Promenade, Greenhills 8PM
MARCH 17,18,23,24,25,30 & 31 APRIL 1,6,7,8,27,28 & 29
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
TICKETWORLD 891 9999 AND MUSIC MUSEUM 721 6726
TEATRINO 722 4532 LOCAL 116
TICKETS
P1,000 & P800
Director Leo Rialp
Musical Director Danny Favis Set Designer Mio Infante Costumes Eric Pineda
Lighting Designer Voltaire de Jesus Choreography Liesl Laforteza
MAGIC 89.9 DREAM 106 92.3 JOEY

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP



FROM THE CREATOR OF "SCREAM"
VENOM
HE NEVER HURT A SOUL UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
PROBLEM CHILDREN?
THE PERSON YOU NEED IS
Emma Thompson Colin Firth
Nanny McPhee
NOW IN THEATERS

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2 GP
2 (DOLBY) NANNY MCPHEE GP
JUST FRIENDS R13
3 (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2 R18
4 (DOLBY) VENOM R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ICE AGE 2 GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDS) JUST FRIENDS
2 (SDDS) NANNY MCPHEE
3 (DTS) ICE AGE 2
4 GOLD (DTS) ICE AGE 2
5 GOLD (DOLBY) LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
6 GOLD (SDDS) VENOM
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 V FOR VENDETTA
10 ULTRAVIOLET

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
4 (DOLBY) VENOM

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 (DTS) MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
4 VENOM

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
3 (DTS) VENOM
4 HOUSE OF FURY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE DARK
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 16 BLOCKS
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL
4 (DTS) V FOR VENDETTA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ULTRAVIOLET

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 ICE AGE 2
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 (DOLBY) MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
4 (DOLBY) VENOM

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
2 VENOM
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 BASIC INSTINCT 1
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SOON TO OPEN
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE

MARKET! MARKET!
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 THE DARK
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 AEON FLUX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 BASIC INSTINCT 2

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433994
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 BASIC INSTINCT 1
3 VENOM
4 ICE AGE 2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 ICE AGE 2
2 VENOM

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) ICE AGE 2
2 VENOM
3 (DTS EX) MOMENTS
4 FINAL DESTINATION

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 HOSTEL

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 HOSTEL
3 (DOLBY) FINAL DESTINATION
4 (DTS) HOUSE OF FURY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-5271
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ICE AGE 2
RESERVED
RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 AEON FLUX

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE DARK
2 PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KARELASYON
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
4 (DTS) PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
2 XXX.COM
3 (DTS) MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 HOUSE OF FURY
5 VENOM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 GLORY ROAD
2 ICE AGE 2
3 16 BLOCKS
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 THE DARK
2 DARK DANCER

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 ICE AGE 2 • THX
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 LUCKY SLEVEN
4 VENOM
5 ICE AGE 2
6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 SHE'S THE MAN
9 ULTRAVIOLET
10 NANNY MCPHEE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ICE AGE 2
2 NANNY MCPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
3 LUCKY SLEVEN
4 JUST FRIENDS
5 VENOM
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
7 BASIC INSTINCT 2

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 JUST FRIENDS
2 LUCKY SLEVEN
3 ICE AGE 2
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 VENOM
7 NANNY MCPHEE
8 SHE'S THE MAN

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 VENOM
5 LUCKY SLEVEN
6 JUST FRIENDS

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 ICE AGE 2
3 VENOM
4 LUCKY SLEVEN

JUICY FRUIT®
Gimik Card
Buy 1 Take 1
Promo
EXTENDED!
February 13 to
March 31, 2006
Buy your Juicy Fruit
Multipacks with Gimik Cards
from selected Robinsons Supermarket
and Supercenter branches nationwide.
Gimik Card
Wrigley's Juicy Fruit
Per BFAD Permit No. 0189 series of 2006

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 VENOM
3 ICE AGE 2
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 GLORY ROAD
4 16 BLOCKS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 VENOM
4 LUCKY SLEVEN
5 ULTRAVIOLET

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 VENOM
2 ICE AGE 2
3 LUCKY SLEVEN
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 VENOM
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 LUCKY SLEVEN
6 COE-ED SCANDAL

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 VENOM
4 LUCKY SLEVEN
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 HOUSE OF FURY

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 GLORY ROAD
5 SYRIANA
6 THE DARK

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 ICE AGE 2
2 GLORY ROAD
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 DATE MOVIE
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The
Perfect Gift
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

'We simply grew apart'

From page A2-1

whole year. I had to make sure [of my decision] because we were together for a long time."

Pia said the relationship had been rocky for a while. "I'd go abroad with the cast of 'Eat... Bulaga!' ... and never missed Mike. I figured there must be something wrong."

She added: "I'm Miss Quality Control. *Hindi pwedeng ganun-ganun lang.* For me, *kapag* boyfriend *mo, dapat mami*-miss *mo maya't maya.*"

The TV host, Liana Pia Coronado Guanio in real life, said her family supported her decision.

"My parents are always behind me," she said. "They taught me that no experience is ever wasted."

A source close to Pia said the family never approved of her living with Mike for years now. The source refused to elaborate, except to say the couple last appeared together in a family gathering on Valentine's Day.

As a result of the break-up Pia is now being romantically linked to her "Eat... Bulaga!" cohost Vic Sotto.

When INQUIRER sought Vic's comment, the comedian-TV host said in text message: "Not true."

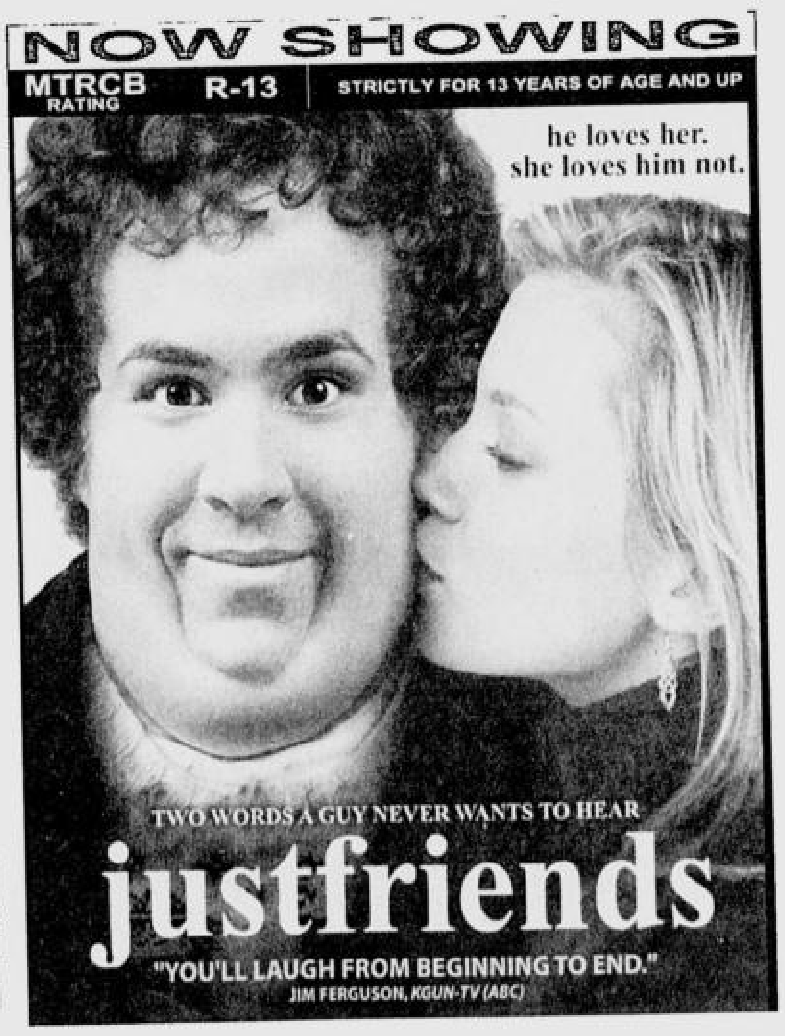
In 2003, Vic admitted going out with a model named Pia Cabrera. Tabloid reports say they're still a couple.

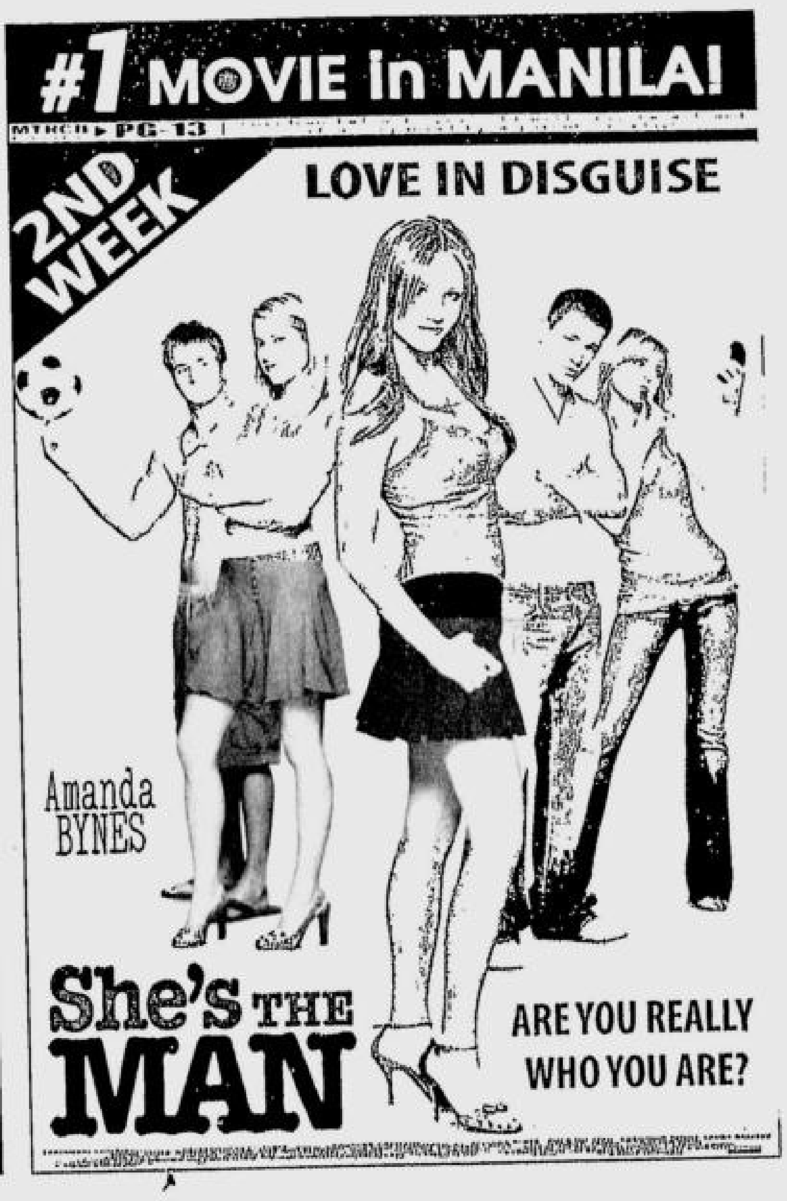
Acid test for Karylle

FANS OF KARYLLE AND HER BOYFRIEND Dingdong Dantes are not happy about "Moments of Love," currently in theaters. Dingdong's love interest in the movie is Iza Calzado. For the real-life teamup, this is an acid test.

"But I don't regret accepting the role," Karylle says. "Seldom does a film this good come along."

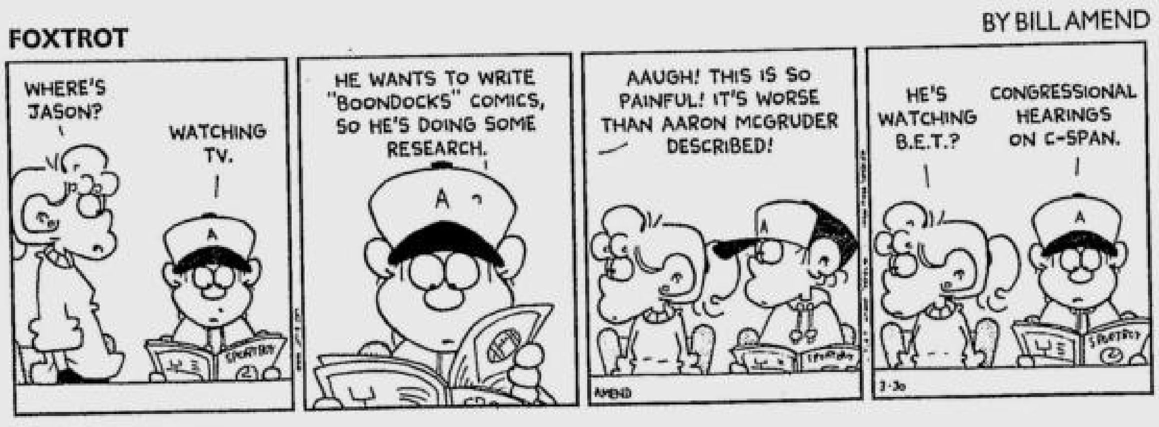
MTRCB RATING R-18
NO ONE BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE MAY BE ADMITTED.
THE HILLS HAVE EYES
THE LUCKY ONES DIE FIRST
OPENS APRIL 5
SIMULTANEOUSLY SHOWING IN:
METRO MANILA: AYALA CINEMAS, ALI MALL, BLUE WAVE, EASTWOOD, FILINVEST, GATEWAY, GOTESCO CINEMAS, GREENHILLS, PAVILION, POWERPLANT, REMAR, ROBINSONS CINEMAS, SHANGRILA, STA. LUCIA, SUPERCINERAMA, WALTERMART MAKATI, ROBEN
CALAMBA: WALTERMART, LIANA'S
LOS BANOS - OLIVAREZ


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
he loves her.
she loves him not.
TWO WORDS A GUY NEVER WANTS TO HEAR
justfriends
"YOU'LL LAUGH FROM BEGINNING TO END."
JIM FERGUSON, KGUN-TV (ABC)

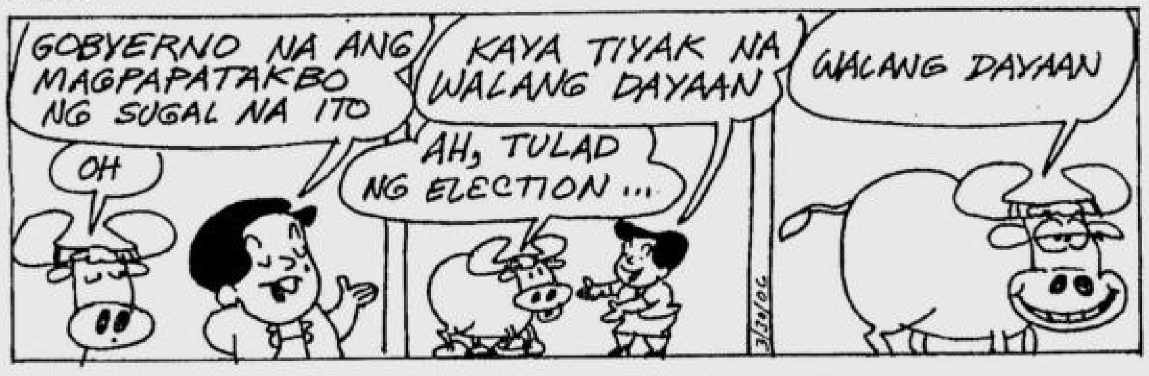

#1 MOVIE in MANILA!
MTRCB PG-13
2ND WEEK
LOVE IN DISGUISE
Amanda BYNES
She's THE MAN
ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?

ICE AGE 2
Stretching To New Heights!
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED

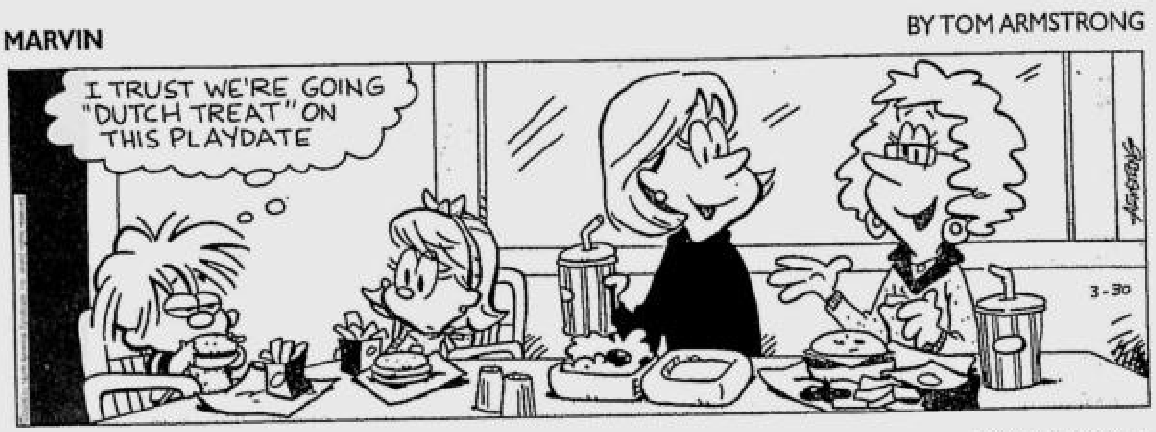
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


WHERE'S JASON?
WATCHING TV.
HE WANTS TO WRITE "BOONDOCKS" COMICS, SO HE'S DOING SOME RESEARCH.
AAUGH! THIS IS SO PAINFUL! IT'S WORSE THAN AARON MCGRUDER DESCRIBED!
HE'S WATCHING B.E.T.?
CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON C-SPAN.
AMEND
3-30

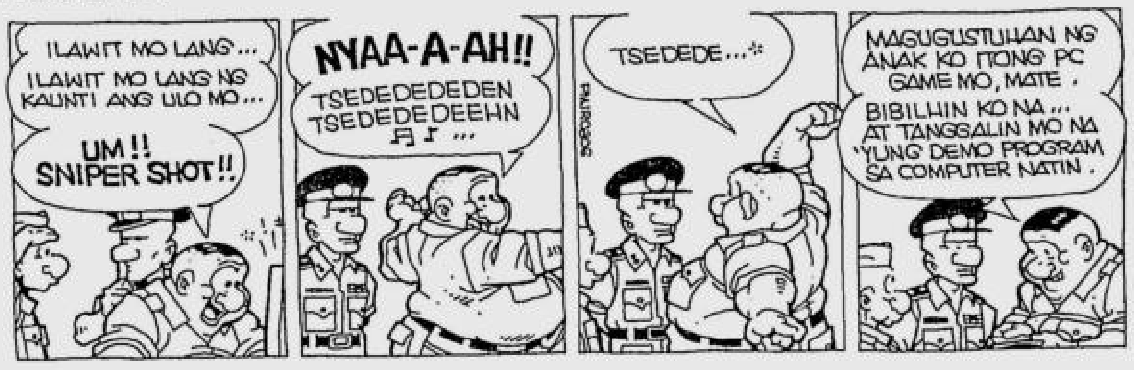
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


GOBYERNO NA ANG MAGPAPATAKBO NG SUGAL NA ITO
OH
KAYA TIYAK NA WALANG DAYAAN
AH, TULAD NG ELECTION ...
WALANG DAYAAN
3/28/06

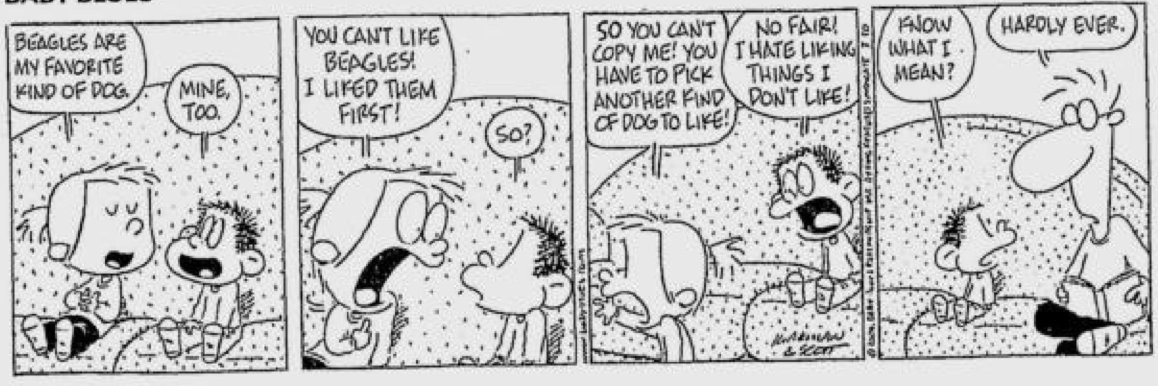
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I TRUST WE'RE GOING "DUTCH TREAT" ON THIS PLAYDATE
3-30

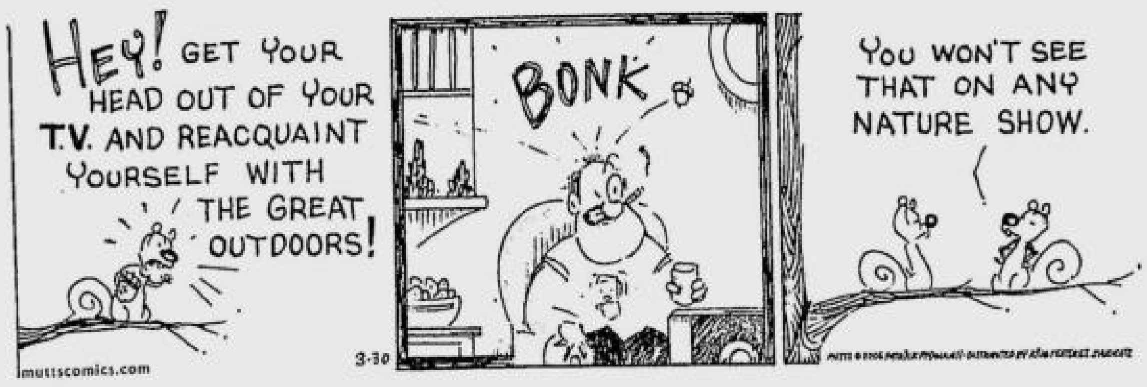
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


ILAWIT MO LANG...
ILAWIT MO LANG NG KAUNTI ANG ULO MO...
UM!! SNIPER SHOT!!
NYAA-A-AH!!
TSEDEDEDEDEN TSEDEDEDEEHN ♫♪ ...
TSEDEDE...
MAGUGUSTUHAN NG ANAK KO ITONG PC GAME MO, MATE.
BIBILHIN KO NA... AT TANGGALIN MO NA 'YUNG DEMO PROGRAM SA COMPUTER NATIN.

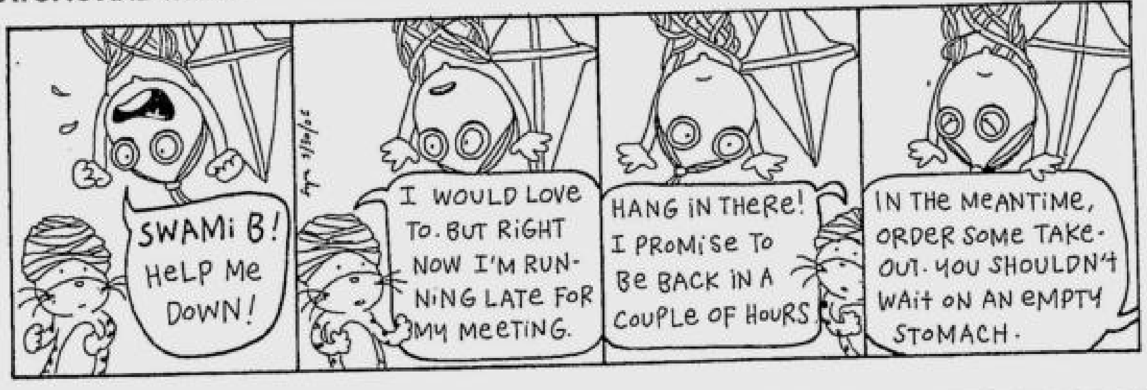
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


BEAGLES ARE MY FAVORITE KIND OF DOG.
MINE, TOO.
YOU CAN'T LIKE BEAGLES! I LIKED THEM FIRST!
SO?
SO YOU CAN'T COPY ME! YOU HAVE TO PICK ANOTHER KIND OF DOG TO LIKE!
NO FAIR! I HATE LIKING THINGS I DON'T LIKE!
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HARDLY EVER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY! GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR T.V. AND REACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS!
BONK
YOU WON'T SEE THAT ON ANY NATURE SHOW.
muttscomics.com
3-30

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

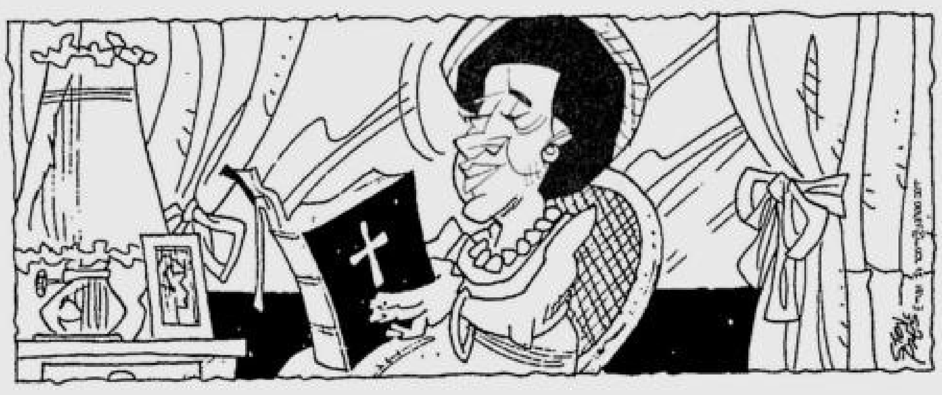

SWAMI B! HELP ME DOWN!
I WOULD LOVE TO. BUT RIGHT NOW I'M RUNNING LATE FOR MY MEETING.
HANG IN THERE! I PROMISE TO BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS
IN THE MEANTIME, ORDER SOME TAKE-OUT. YOU SHOULDN'T WAIT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

ALAM MONG TUMATANDA KA NA KUNG

....

MAHILIG KA NA MAGBASA NG BIBLE



HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You know how to seduce others with strong opinions and big ideas. You're intense and work with extreme dedication. You're so energetic that others have trouble keeping up with you. You know what you want, and you know what you think is right. A major change (perhaps as significant as 1997) will take place this year.

Birthdate of: Norah Jones, singer; Eric Clapton, guitarist; Warren Beatty, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Some of you have increased responsibilities with children now. Nevertheless, all of you have an opportunity to discover how you can best express your creative talents.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Make improvements to where you live now. It's important for you to feel good about your home and your domestic scene. This matters to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Think about how you can communicate to others more clearly. You're bright, quick and clever. Make sure others understand what you mean.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You now want to find work that is meaningful to you. Yes, you need to earn your daily bread, but you want to enjoy doing so! (And why not?)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's important to narrow your focus now. Pull in a little; don't spread your energy too thin. Just focus on what is already on your plate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Increased solitude will help you to sort out some important changes that await you in the next few years. Your first step is to get rid of whatever you no longer need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): How can you include others more in your life now? Your ability to work with groups and friends will be majorly tested this year.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): At this time in your life, you see more clearly what is working and what is not. Once you are able to determine what is not working, be swift to move on!

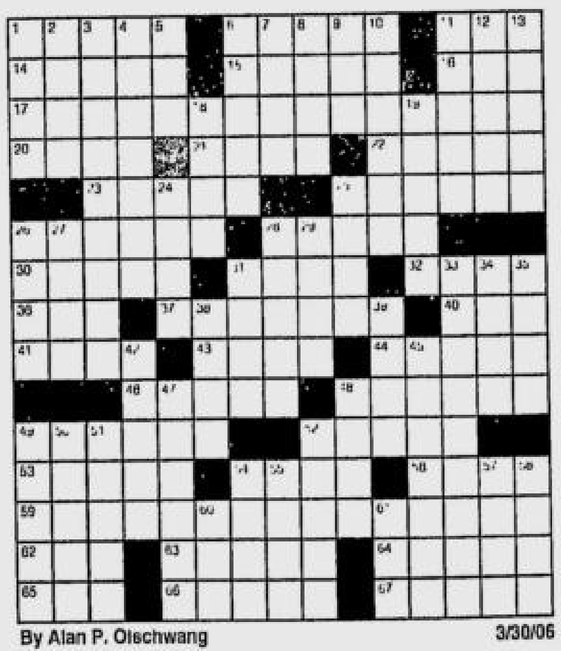
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is most definitely a time of preparation for you. The goals that you seek to accomplish are within your grasp now. Lay the groundwork so that you're ready for them in two years.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Because some resources from others are now diminished, your own independence is being tested. You can handle this. You're a determined perfectionist who is extremely capable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't be afraid to take charge of your own independence. You're starting to focus on your external world now. Some of you are breaking free from relationships. All of you are going places!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): At times, you might feel overwhelmed, but you can handle all the responsibilities that you now bear. This is a time of hard work, and hard work always brings its own payoff.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
3/30/06

ACROSS
1 Light show source
6 Speech impediments
11 PC key
14 Torment
15 Perfect
16 Kanga's kid
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
20 Cogito __ sum
21 Sushi selection
22 Type of fire?
23 Part 2 of quote
25 More concise
26 Most cunning
28 Molts
30 Last place
31 Not of the cloth
32 Off-the-wall remark?
36 Local pol.
37 Part 3 of quote
40 Horse morsel
41 Breathe in sharply
43 Was in arrears
44 Lone Ranger's sidekick
46 Aromatic compound
48 Pasta toppers
49 Abandons
52 Part 4 of quote
53 Lewis Carroll heroine
54 Dishonorable man
56 San __ Obispo
59 End of quote
62 High dudgeon
63 Actress Black
64 German city
65 Pub
66 Long look
67 Arrests

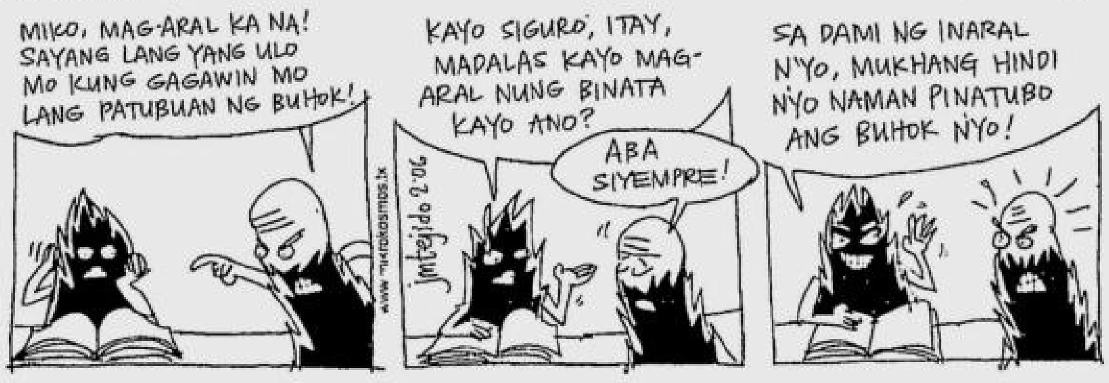
DOWN
1 Type of duck?
2 Culture medium
3 Natural singers
4 Performance extenders
5 Scandinavian rug
6 Like some paper
7 Revered figure
8 Wimbledon units
9 Crony
10 Cut into thin pieces
11 Vicinities
12 Untethered
13 Aid to skin firmness
18 Shipshape
19 Poet's product
24 Como __ Usted?
25 Software support person
26 Loot
27 "Damn Yankees" gal
28 More rational
29 Made haste
31 Rob or Chad
33 Air terminal part
34 Despise
35 Platte River people
38 Builder's buys
39 Info from schedules
42 Dove's desire
45 Survive beyond
47 Iotas
48 Table seasoning
49 Indian address
50 Santa __, CA
51 Yellow or Red
52 "Die Lorelei" poet
54 Wife/sister of Zeus
55 Fulda tributary
57 As previously said: Lat.
58 Federal IDs
60 Hamlin pest
61 Parisian pronoun

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

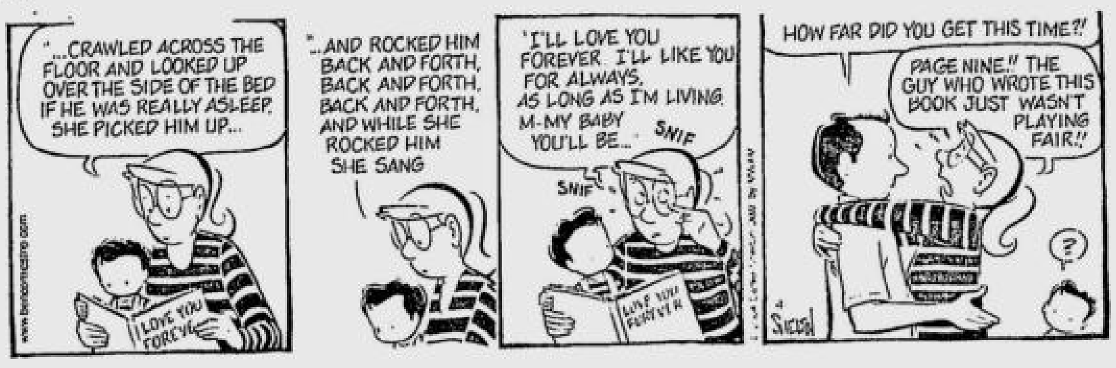
L	A	P	I	N	■	B	E	L	A	■	R	A	S	P
A	R	E	C	A	■	E	L	A	M	■	E	L	I	A
W	I	R	E	S	■	S	L	I	P	■	L	E	E	R
■	■	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E	R	O	U	N	D
L	E	E	■	■	U	S	E	■	R	E	A	T	A	S
A	L	T	A	I	R	■	■	L	A	N	D	■	■	■
P	O	U	R	S	■	S	L	A	G	■	■	O	L	I
S	P	A	R	R	I	N	G	S	E	S	S	I	O	N
F	F	I	■	■	N	E	E	T	■	H	I	L	D	A
■	■	■	L	A	S	E	■	■	R	E	S	I	G	N
A	D	D	I	C	T	■	L	E	A	■	■	G	E	E
P	R	E	S	E	A	S	O	N	G	A	M	E	■	■
P	O	E	T	■	N	E	R	O	■	G	E	N	R	E
L	I	R	E	■	C	A	R	L	■	R	A	C	E	D
E	D	E	N	■	E	L	E	A	■	A	T	E	S	T

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
3/30/06

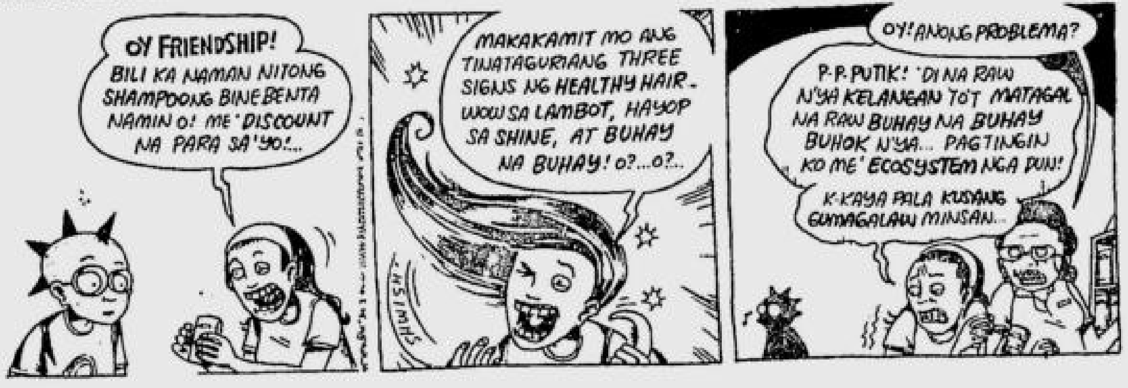
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MIKO, MAG-ARAL KA NA! SAYANG LANG YANG ULO MO KUNG GAGAWIN MO LANG PATUBUAN NG BUHOK!
KAYO SIGURO, ITAY, MADALAS KAYO MAG-ARAL NUNG BINATA KAYO ANO?
ABA SIYEMPRE!
SA DAMI NG INARAL N'YO, MUKHANG HINDI N'YO NAMAN PINATUBO ANG BUHOK N'YO!
jmtejido 2.06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

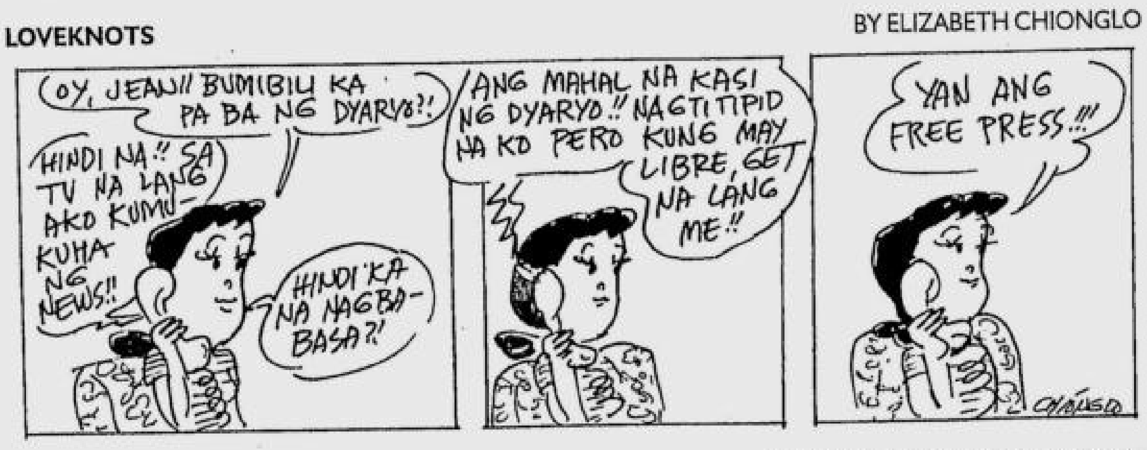
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


"...CRAWLED ACROSS THE FLOOR AND LOOKED UP OVER THE SIDE OF THE BED IF HE WAS REALLY ASLEEP, SHE PICKED HIM UP...
I LOVE YOU FOREVER
"...AND ROCKED HIM BACK AND FORTH, BACK AND FORTH, BACK AND FORTH. AND WHILE SHE ROCKED HIM SHE SANG
'I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER. I'LL LIKE YOU FOR ALWAYS. AS LONG AS I'M LIVING M-MY BABY YOU'LL BE...
SNIF
SNIF
HOW FAR DID YOU GET THIS TIME?!
PAGE NINE." THE GUY WHO WROTE THIS BOOK JUST WASN'T PLAYING FAIR!!
?
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

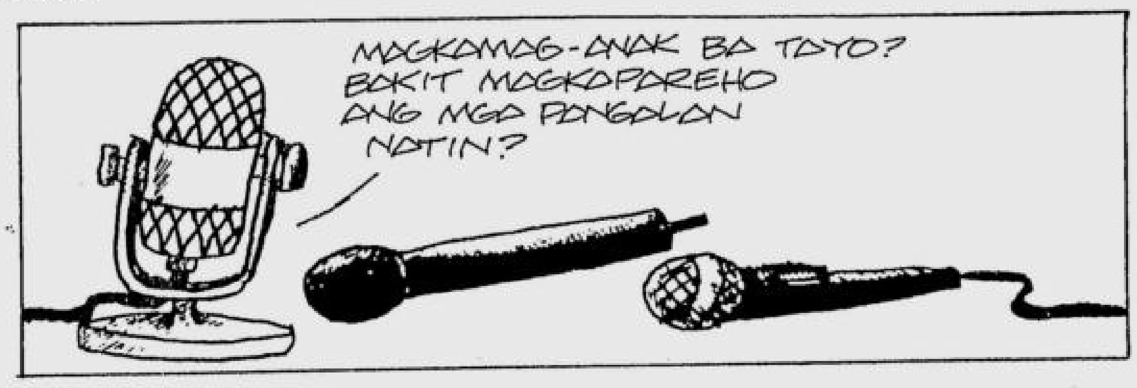
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


OY FRIENDSHIP! BILI KA NAMAN NITONG SHAMPOONG BINEBENTA NAMIN O! ME' DISCOUNT NA PARA SA'YO!...
MAKAKAMIT MO ANG TINATAGURIANG THREE SIGNS NG HEALTHY HAIR- WOW SA LAMBOT, HAYOP SA SHINE, AT BUHAY NA BUHAY! O?...O?...
SHWISH
OY! ANONG PROBLEMA?
P-P-PUTIK! 'DI NA RAW N'YA KELANGAN TOT MATAGAL NA RAW BUHAY NA BUHAY BUHOK N'YA... PAGTINGIN KO ME' ECOSYSTEM NGA DUN!
K-KAYA PALA KUSANG GUMAGALAW MINSAN...

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


OY, JEAN!! BUMIBILI KA PA BA NG DYARYO?!
HINDI NA!! SA TV NA LANG AKO KUMUKUHA NG NEWS!!
HINDI KA NA NAGBABASA?!
ANG MAHAL NA KASI NG DYARYO!! NAGTITIPID NA KO PERO KUNG MAY LIBRE, GET NA LANG ME!!
YAN ANG FREE PRESS!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAGKAMAG-ANAK BA TAYO? BAKIT MAGKAPAREHO ANG MGA PANGALAN NATIN?

Bitoy's toys

Michael V has three kids, but guess who has the most action figures and model kits?

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OUT OF THE CLOSET

'HAVE you seen anything like this McFarlane dragon?"

MICHAEL V TAKES PLEASURE IN EACH OF the many roles he plays.

He is a husband and the father of three kids. He is the host of two top-rating shows on GMA 7 ("Bubble Gang" and "Bitoy's Funniest"). He is a product endorser. He is a sculptor and a sports enthusiast.

IN a rare mood

NOT a collector

A THING for caps.

During this visit to his three-story home in Quezon City, Michael V, fondly known as Bitoy, plays escort to INQUIRER Entertainment, ushering us into rooms where he keeps his favorite things.

One such room on the second floor is what he calls the family work area. It holds the comedian's shoe, bag and hat collections. It also has Bitoy's Macintosh computer and other gadgets. "It pays that we have this kind of room. This is my office," Bitoy says, "and also the kids' homework area."

Displayed in another room, on the third floor, is Bitoy's collection of his favorite DVDs. *"Lahat 'yan hindi pirata!"* he points out.

Also in here are Bitoy's rare toys, like his Todd McFarlane collection and Darth Vader lightsabers, bought in Japan. "I have action figures, too. The Terminator is my all-time favorite [Arnold] Schwarzenegger character," he says with enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, Bitoy says, his costumes and collection of wigs are stored on the set of "Bubble Gang," in Makati City. He plays female characters in the long-running gag show.

"The trick is to wear something that will make you look like a real woman. In 'Bubble Gang,' we play real women, not gay characters. *May pinaggagayahan talaga kaming mga babae.* It's important that the audience believes you're really female."

TOYS

"I'm a collector of Todd McFarlane toys. He's the comic book artist who created the character Spawn. He's one of the finest toy makers around (shows a McFarlane dragon sculpture). Look how detailed this is. Have you ever seen anything like it? Look at the scales! He's really good.

"For a time, I was into model kits. I first assembled the Predator, then Terminator. I'm now into sculpting.

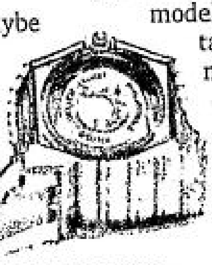
"I have action figures, too. Hell Boy is one of my favorite comic characters. And because I collect Frank Miller's Sin City, I got Marv. I bought Charlie—Johnny Depp's character in the 'Chocolate Factory' movie—because he's my daughter's favorite.

"I'm a big 'Matrix' fan, hence, the Neo, Morpheus and Trinity action figures. I bought 'Smallville' characters for my wife. I also collect anything that's related to Darth Vader, like these lightsabers that I found in Japan."

DVDs

"I have the complete collection of the 'Matrix' series. 'Terminator' is my favorite FX movie. For me, the 'Wedding Singer' is Adam Sandler's finest movie so far. Jim Carey is at his best in 'Liar! Liar!' *Nakakatawa at nakakaiyak* at the same time."

SHOES



THE PRECIOUS Omega

"I'm a sneakers guy. Maybe because when I was still young, I couldn't afford them. I own a lot of Nike Free rubber shoes. I think I have a bone spur. It hurts when I walk so I need lightweight footwear. I bought my first pair in Malaysia. After using it several times, my muscles strengthened. Since then, I buy every time Nike markets a new model.

"I don't own a lot of formal footwear. But I make sure I have stuff here that I could use. I like Wade Shoes. The designs are good and prices are competitive. I own a pair of rubber shoes for each sport I'm into, like badminton, basketball, boxing, tennis and, just recently, golf.

"I also own kung fu shoes (shows his Nike Air Zoom KF) and cycling shoes (black-silver Nike Altea II). I'm not into kung fu or cycling. I just use them for going out. Cross trainers work for almost all kinds of sports. I own a couple of pairs.

"I don't consider myself a collector of shoes. *Mahilig lang talaga.* I don't wait for a particular model, unlike Antonio Aquitania ("Bubble Gang" mainstay). He doesn't care how much it costs.

"When I buy shoes, I try them on first; that's important. As for the prize, it doesn't really matter if they're inexpensive as long as they're comfortable. Just don't buy pirated wares. *Niloloko mo lang ang sarili mo.* Buy a nameless pair if you must."

CAPS

"One of these caps was a gift from by [novelty singer] April 'Boy' Regino. He was one of my guests on [the now-defunt] 'Celebrity Turns.' I dared him to give the cap he was wearing to me. He's known for handing out locally made baseball caps to his fans. This one, he said he got from a friend abroad.

"Dickies Clothing provides most of my caps. I have with me caps that are not yet released in the local market. One is the prototype of the original Dickies cap released for the Nasdaq recently. I also own a lot of caps featuring my favorite comic book superheroes like The Flash, Green Lantern, Batman and Superman.

THAT'S a neat way to store 'em.

ACCESSORIES

"I get my accessories from Charms and Crystals. I don't really believe that crystals could change the way people live their lives. It's just that I've been looking for the perfect accessories for a long time now.

"I'm really not a collector of watches, but there's this one watch that I got interested in after I saw its ad in a magazine. It's an Omega special Philippine edition watch. Omega came up with only 100 pieces. The magazine I was reading at the time was already two months old. I didn't think I could still find one until I chanced upon a watch shop in Greenhills. I was proud to find out that the one I bought was the first piece of the 100.

"My Technomarine watch was a gift from the director of Joy Ultra, which I endorse. I use this mostly para *magpapogi, na hindi ko naman alam kung* effective *sa akin.*

"Before I acquired these timepieces, I was amazed by the technology of Seiko. I bought two Seiko kinetic and auto relay watches. Watches like these are powered by motion. It's a technology that translates every movement of the watch into electricity.

"I got a Luminox watch from my wife's cousin who lives in Japan. They say this is the watch that the Navy Seals use."

SHIRTS AND PANTS

"When I find a style that I like, I buy them in all the colors available. The most recent brands that I remember buying were Celio and Giordano. I liked Giordano's slim-fit shirt so I bought five pieces in different colors.

"Dickies Clothing provide most of the shirts and pants I wear on my TV shows. Dickies jeans are very comfortable."

BAGS

QUEST for the ultimate backpack.

"I've always believed that there's one backpack for all my expectations. Because of my search for that ultimate backpack, *ang dami ko nang nabili.*

"Right now, I'm addicted to Hedgren bags. There's this one particular Hedgren that I like because its main compartment is found on the rear side. This is how it should be. *Hindi ka na mananakawan.* I also like sling bags. They're trendy; they're easy to use.

"I own a laptop bag from Bubble-B. This is a gift from my wife's cousin whom we visited in Japan. When this brand first came out here, it was worth P20,000. Then Rustan's released it for half the price. This is really for electronic equipment like laptops. It's heavy, but sturdy.

"I'm currently using a Columbia backpack. It's so light that it practically weighs nothing. The only weight you'll feel is those of the stuff you put inside."

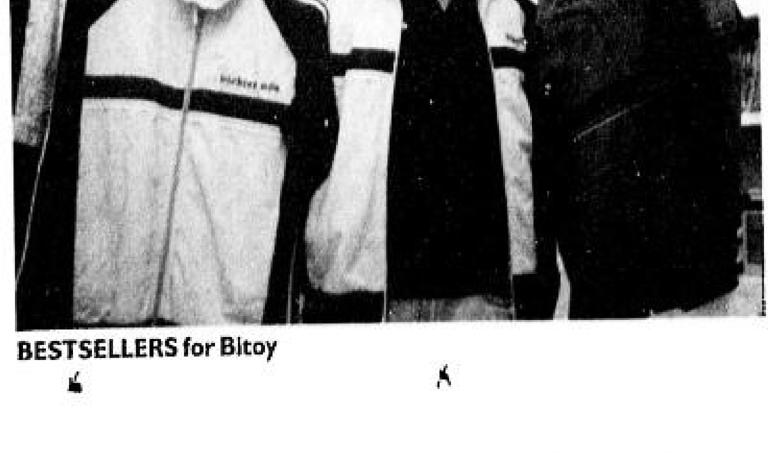
JACKETS

"This black pack-able jacket is from the brand Columbia. It's so light. Mountain climbers use them. It's made from the materials used for tents. I also bought several pants from Columbia. It's great for travel.

"I fell in love with this Dickies jacket the first time I saw it. I remembered the movie 'Kill Bill.' This is Dickies' bestseller. Aside from the yellow version, I also have it in gray, red and blue.

"I have jackets for when I ride my motorbike. They're from Komine. You should protect yourself when you're riding a bike, *kahit sa malapitang byahe lang.*

JACKETS are great for travel



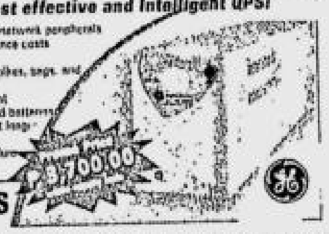
BESTSELLERS for Bitoy

HE has a complete "Matrix" series ... and much much more.

AMTI Accent Micro Technologies, Inc.
Suite 1406, 14/F Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel. #: 636-3583 Fax #: 636-3564

Line-Interactive, Cost effective and Intelligent UPS!
- Cost efficient protection for network peripherals
Low operating and maintenance costs
- Line interactive operation
Protection against surges, spikes, sags, and mains failures
- Superior battery management
Improves lifetime of UPS and batteries protecting critical equipment longer
- Automatic self testing
No surprises due to UPS failure during power outage

ML 500VA UPS



BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

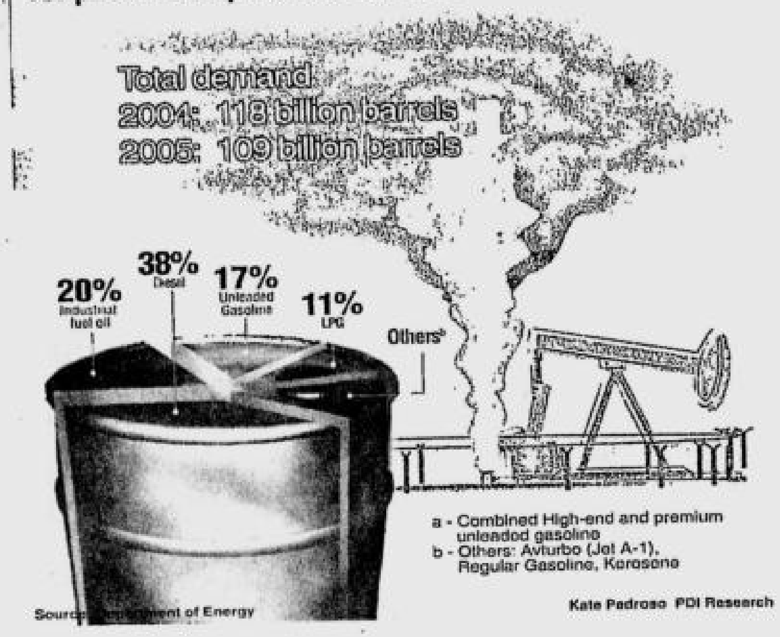
PETRON Fuel Success.
Laban, laban sa Petron Rev-X!
REV-
X-pert sa makina, X-tra ang kita.

Finance seeks repeal of 40 tax perks laws

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Diesel gets lion's share in RP's decreased demand for petroleum products in 2005



a - Combined High-end and premium unleaded gasoline
b - Others: Avturbo (Jet A-1), Regular Gasoline, Kerosene

Source: Department of Energy

Kate Padroso PDI Research

Gov't loses ₱300B a year due to granting of incentives

By Michelle V. Remo and Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID IT WOULD LOBBY FOR THE passage of its own version of a fiscal incentives rationalization plan with a potential of generating P10.3 billion in annual savings for the national government.

A finance official said the savings would come from the proposed repeal of 40 laws that currently grant various fiscal incentives such as tax and duty exemptions to different industries.

The Lower House has already passed its own version of the fiscal rationalization bill, which only seeks to repeal 17 laws.

The version adopted by the House of Representatives was almost similar to that being pushed by the Board of Investments (BOI). The BOI estimated that its version of the fiscal incentives rationalization plan would result in an annual savings of P4.8 billion.

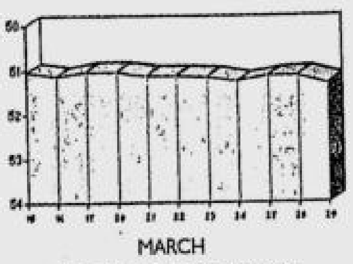
But the finance official expressed concern that the House's and the BOI's version of the rationalization plan would not result in any savings for the national government, but instead lead to more foregone revenues.

He explained that the House's version, while it aims to consolidate all fiscal incentives-related laws into one omnibus law, proposes the granting of income tax holidays to

FINANCE/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MARCH

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.30 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 29, 2006

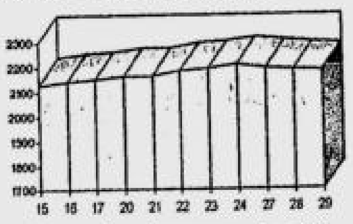
¥117.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 29, 2006

GOLD: $561.20-561.70

per ounce Hong Kong, March 29, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.24-PERcent lower yesterday as investors continued to take profit on recent gains following Wall Street's losses overnight and indications US interest rates will rise further, dealers said.

The composite index shed 5.21 points to 2,181.58. It moved between 2,174.67 and 2,190.43.

SHARES/ B3

ALLOTS P100M FOR RP-PALAU ROUTE

Asian Spirit goes international

By Daxim L. Lucas

NICHE AIR CARRIER ASIAN Spirit will begin regular commercial flights to the Pacific resort island of Palau next week, committing to invest P100 million to develop the route.

The thrice a week Manila-Davao-Palau route is Asian Spirit's first venture into international flight operations.

In a briefing, Asian Spirit chair Antonio V. Turalba Jr. said the funds would be spent on set-up costs as well as for the upgrading of the airline's facilities in Manila and Davao.

"We are proud to say that Asian Spirit is the first Filipino carrier to open its international doors to [this] route, significantly cutting short flying time for tourists and commuters coming from the south, since it will spare them a trip to Manila just to get to Palau," he said.

The company also disclosed that it would take delivery of a fourth BAe-146 100-seat commuter jet next month from its manufacturer, British Aerospace Systems, to add to its three units of the same model already being used for local flights.

The aircraft, which costs between $5 million and $8 million depending on the model, will be acquired through a straight lease agreement with an option to purchase at the end of the lease.

After Palau, Asian Spirit is looking at a route to Sandakan, Malaysia, this time via the Zamboanga City airport. Regular chartered flights from mainland China—specifically Guangzhou and Shanghai—to Manila or Clark are also being planned, although no timetable was given for these operations.

ASIAN/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cebu Pacific offers P1 airline seats /B3

Peso rise seen to bring down 2006 Customs collection /B3

BMW Philippines Xpo 2006
www.bmw.com.ph
Sheer Driving Pleasure

The beat goes on.

BMW 3 Series

Adrenaline Rush. The BMW Xpo month.

BMW Xpo 2006

All Authorized BMW Dealerships
March 1 to 31, 2006

- 50% downpayment, 0% interest for 24 months on selected BMW models
- 10% downpayment, 7 years financing on all BMW models
- Chance to win 1 year worth of fuel from Petron for every BMW purchase
- Individual dealer activities

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1457, Series of 2006

Event Partners: Drive your Dream; Petron Blaze; Santri; Samsonite

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 6380734 • Fax (02) 4380419 • Prestige Cars BMW 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.(02) 8928127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325 • Autozentrum BMW Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 Fax (02) 772 6025 • Klassik BMW 20 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 7816668 • Fax (02) 7314433 • Premier Cars BMW CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 9637777 • Fax (045) 9633355 • Performance Auto BMW Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel (032) 2563491 • Fax (032) 2563492

Proliferation of fake goods alarms ECCP

By Michelle V. Remo

EUROPEAN BUSINESSMEN have asked the government to step up efforts to go after violators of intellectual property rights, following the proliferation of counterfeit European products.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) said fake appliances, car parts, and pharmaceutical products have made their way into the domestic market, adversely affecting businesses of legitimate European manufacturers.

"The counterfeit products are yet another barrier to increased corporate investments from Europe. Likewise, there is a big risk to health and safety of individuals who would be acquiring these items," ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher said in a statement.

ECCP cited data from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) which showed that although products of US-based Microsoft was still the most copied product in the Philippines, six European products were among the top 10.

These include products of German footwear giants Adidas and Reebok, United Kingdom-based clothing and apparel company Burberry, French luxury goods conglomerate Louis Vuitton, French clothing company Lacoste, and United Kingdom cigarette maker Benson & Hedges.

"We are urging the Philippine government to take immediate steps as European companies are currently absorbing losses due to the problem," Schumacher added.

The ECCP official said his group appreciated the Philippine government's effort to implement a no-settlement policy against violators of IPRs.

He added, however, that such efforts should be intensified.

The ECCP formed an IPR committee composed of business executives and lawyers, tasked with fighting unscrupulous businessmen dealing with fake European products.

SEC may keep 35% offer rule

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission may keep its rule requiring investors to make an offer to buy out minority shareholders once they acquire at least 35 percent of a publicly-listed company.

This came in the wake of stiff opposition by influential private sector groups, including the Philippine Stock Exchange, to the SEC plan to bring down the trigger level to activate the tender offer rule to just 15 percent.

"The SEC is considering the representations contained in the various position papers submitted to us," SEC chair Fe Barin told the INQUIRER.

The SEC move to review its tender offer rule drew sharp protests from the Philippine Stock Exchange, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines and the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

The four groups said in a joint position paper that reducing the trigger level for the tender offer rule to take effect from 35 percent to 15 percent "will discourage foreign investment flows into the Philippines and result in dampening mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

The drop in M&A activity will, in turn, reduce stock market trading volume, they added.

They explained that many direct investment companies or private equity firms were only interested in getting a substantial stake in a company, without necessarily gaining control of the listed firm.

The PSE said in a supplemental position paper submitted on Tuesday that the stock market would lose more investments and lag further behind its neighbors, if a lower tender offer trigger is imposed.

"One false step on the matter, and we will look like a slow dwarf tripping over himself in the middle of a race among tall sprinters," PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement after he submitted the PSE supplemental position paper to the SEC.

Scheme milk

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THEY ARE STILL AT IT!

Only now, it's the turn of the other government-run pension fund, the GSIS, to feel the, well, "pressure" from the SM group of mall developer Henry Sy Sr.

Under the scheme of Henry Sy's daughter Tessie Sy Coson, the SM group's Banco de Oro is to absorb Equitable PCI Bank through a "merger," in effect taking control of the larger EPCIB for a song.

Since the pension funds SSS and GSIS own roughly 40 percent of EPCIB, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia wants "cash" for the GSIS holdings.

This Cebu hometown boy who dared to fight the giant SM group felt the heat during the latest GSIS board meeting.

Garcia wanted to synchronize the sale of the GSIS holdings and the famous 10-percent "treasury shares."

That's when he got a rebuff from a member of the GSIS board, who happened to be the chair himself, by the name of Bernardino Abes.

Does his name sound familiar!

***

AS A backgrounder, EPCIB itself supposedly paid for those "treasury shares" when the Go family, in a joint venture with GSIS and SSS, bought the old PCI Bank in 1998.

In other words, the "treasury shares" are locked in the bank, doing nothing, benefiting nobody.

Currently, the international finance group ING, as financial adviser of EPCIB, recommends that the bank sell those shares to raise additional capital.

The 10-percent block can attract buyers precisely because the proceeds will go right into the bank and earn more money.

Any investor prefers that over, say, buying the holdings of the GSIS and the SSS, or even the SM group, in which case the money will go to the stockholders—not the bank.

Thus, Garcia is caught in a fight with the SM group—which seems to have found an ally in the other pension fund, SSS—over the sale of the famous 10-percent "treasury shares."

Together with those "treasury shares," the GSIS holdings in EPCIB will be able to command a good price. The combined block will mean a 24-percent stake in the bank.

In any company, particularly in a publicly listed company like EPCIB, even less than 24 percent is enough for management control.

All the buyer needs to do is to buy out either the SSS or the SM group to gain majority control of the bank.

To Garcia, the "synchronized sale" should attract buyers, plus command a handsome premium.

In short, it is good for the GSIS, right? And also for its millions of members who all happen to be underpaid government employees, right?

***

THAT, unfortunately, is not how the GSIS board chair Abes sees it.

Now, the chair is a former Cabinet member, having served the father of Gloriaetta, the late former President Diosdado Macapagal.

During the board meeting, Abes insisted that Garcia and company sell the GSIS holdings in EPCIB as scheduled on April 6, with or without the 10-percent "treasury shares," and whether or not the GSIS block can attract a good price, even if it can entice buyers.

Just how reasonable is such a demand from the old man Abes, anyway?

You see, the GSIS board earlier voted to go with the proposal of management (i.e. Garcia and company) to sell the GSIS holdings for CASH—and not "pieces of paper" as proposed by the SM group.

In other corporations, such a board resolution is tantamount to giving management the leeway to do whatever is necessary to accomplish the task at hand.

To me, the pressure from Abes, as GSIS board chair, is not going to do the GSIS plan to sell the EPCIB holdings any good.

For one, the potential buyers will surely take advantage of the apparent internal strife in the pension fund.

For another, a divided house of Garcia (i.e. the GSIS board) will benefit only the very same group that Garcia is fighting.

Whadayano, that's the SM group.

***

AGAIN as a background, that Abes guy used to be the chair of the other pension fund, SSS.

Today, by the way, thanks to SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz, who just arrived in Manila from a month-long trip abroad, the SSS is going for the SM group takeover of EPCIB.

Now, only about two years ago, when Abes was SSS chair, the pension fund entered into a deal with SM group on the SSS holdings in EPCIB.

In effect, the SSS was to sell the shares at P43 each, with the payment coming after seven long years. The deal is now the topic of a couple of cases pending before the Supreme Court.

But here is the thing—the deal was done in a hurry, during a midnight meeting on a holiday, reportedly called for by none other than the SSS chair.

If I remember right, the SSS commission was called to a "special meeting" on Dec. 30, 2003—National Hero's Day—which lasted until midnight.

SSS insiders at that time were saying that the commission decided to sell the shares to the SM group.

Somebody simply ordered management to make the recommendation to the commission to that effect, apparently to save the commission members' "A…s."

In short, another milking-the-SSS-members scheme was cooked upstairs.

I mean, do these people really serve us or somebody else?

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 29, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	216,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	63	62	62.5	1,796,400
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	1,770
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.44	0.41	0.42	7,800,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	78	78	73	78	288,500
International Exch. Bank	29	29.5	29	29.5	26,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	39	39	525,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	34	35,600
Phil. Savings Bank	37	37	37	37	10,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	41	41	40.5	40.5	224,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	38	38	36.5	37.5	74,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	26	25	26	16,300
Manulife Financial Corp.	3170	3170	3170	3170	580
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	0.99	0.99	100,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc	159	160	159	160	4,180
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2135	2140	2135	2140	60
Ivantage Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.92	0.93	8,190,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44	44.5	44	44.5	337,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44.5	44	44.5	1,064,800
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13	12.75	13	12,400
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	20	19.5	20	78,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,207,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.45	1,027,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	520,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	12,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36.5	37.5	36.5	37.5	57,700
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.48	2.38	2.4	481,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	60.5	60	60.5	126,400
San Miguel Corp. B	82	82	81	81.5	177,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	124,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	140,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,300,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	1,716,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	623,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,000,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	21,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.52	0.58	0.52	0.58	170,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	37,000,000
Ayala Corp.	352.5	360	352.5	355	188,040
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5	5	327,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.55	2.46	2.55	3,191,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	14,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.9	650,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	940,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.35	3.05	3.2	9,011,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.75	2.8	3,651,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	100,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.8	811,000
Medco Holdings	0.215	0.23	0.215	0.225	1,300,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.245	5,580,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	12,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	229	226	228	176,860
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	170,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,594,400
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	1,533,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	3,860,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	751,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	2,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	750,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	90,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.63	0.64	47,280,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.029	1,600,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.32	2,961,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3.5	3	3.5	120,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,720,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	1,270,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	7,535,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.28	249,290,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.3	2,530,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	124,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	8	8	8	8	287,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.29	9,460,000
SM Development Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	460,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	3,547,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.145	1,660,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	26,600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.96	3,289,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	880	885	875	880	12,600
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	1,434,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1900	1900	1890	1890	212,610
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	350,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.3	50,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.049	20,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	220,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.025	552,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.14	2.2	2.14	2.2	260,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	178,100
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.78	1.82	10,671,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,730,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	135,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	70,000
Paxys Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	562,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	30,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.18	1.1	1.18	1,800,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	606,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	408,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.215	0.215	9,480,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	6,530,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	225,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	63,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	27,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.55	10,917,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.6	12,617,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	178,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	140,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	450,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	990,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	87,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	36,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.75	12	11.75	12	58,900

CURRENCIES

March 29, 2006

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.833056	1.000000	51.1450
Japan	Yen	0.007064	0.008480	0.4337
United Kingdom	Pound	1.452433	1.743500	89.1713
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107367	0.128883	6.5917
Switzerland	Franc	0.636260	0.763767	39.0629
Canada	Dollar	0.711588	0.854190	43.6875
Singapore	Dollar	0.513503	0.616409	31.5262
Australia	Dollar	0.589482	0.707614	36.1909
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.210576	2.653576	135.7171
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222148	0.266667	13.6387
Brunei	Dollar	0.511925	0.614515	31.4294
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000092	0.000111	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.021413	0.025704	1.3146
UAE	Dirham	0.226836	0.272294	13.9265
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.200400	61.3945
Argentina	Peso	0.270034	0.324149	16.5786
Brazil	Real	0.374609	0.449681	22.9989
Denmark	Kroner	0.134037	0.160898	8.2291
India	Rupee	0.018725	0.022477	1.1496
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225516	0.270709	13.8454
Mexico	New Peso	0.075698	0.090868	4.6474
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502901	0.603682	30.8753
Norway	Kroner	0.125908	0.151140	7.7301
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013903	0.016689	0.8536
South Africa	Rand	0.132804	0.159418	8.1534
Korea	Won	0.000853	0.001024	0.0524
Sweden	Kroner	0.106721	0.128108	6.5521
Syria	Pound	0.016048	0.019264	0.9853
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025598	0.030728	1.5716
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000388	0.000466	0.0238

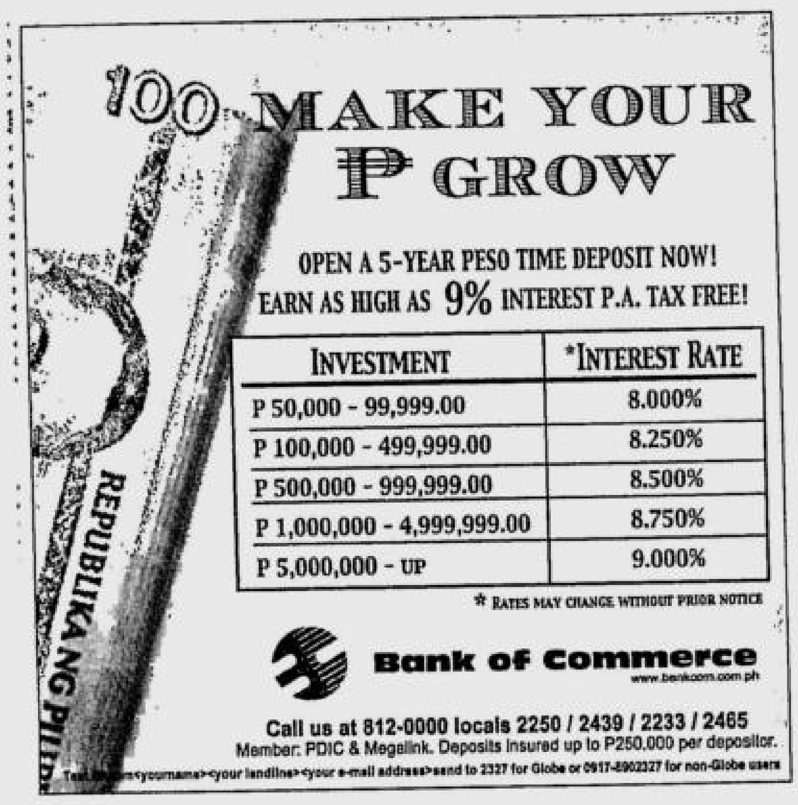
Asian Spirit . . .

From page B1

During the briefing, Turalba added that the new route also paved the way for a "fruitful bilateral tourism partnership" between Palau and the Philippines, particularly the province of Davao.

"We believe Davao will be the gateway to other international destinations, specially to the East Asian and Micronesian countries," he added.

Palau is part of the Micronesian chain of islands famous for its diving sites, offering a wealth of marine life, unspoiled reefs, and pristine beaches.



MAKE YOUR ₱ GROW

OPEN A 5-YEAR PESO TIME DEPOSIT NOW!
EARN AS HIGH AS 9% INTEREST P.A. TAX FREE!

INVESTMENT	*INTEREST RATE
P 50,000 - 99,999.00	8.000%
P 100,000 - 499,999.00	8.250%
P 500,000 - 999,999.00	8.500%
P 1,000,000 - 4,999,999.00	8.750%
P 5,000,000 - UP	9.000%

* RATES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Call us at 812-0000 locals 2250 / 2439 / 2233 / 2465
Member: PDIC & Megalink. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.
<yourname><your landline><your e-mail address>send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road Pasay City, Metro Manila

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
PURCHASE OF SERVICE VEHICLE

1. The *MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (MIAA)*, through its ***2005 Corporate Fund*** intends to apply the sum of ***Php 24,416,000.00*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ***Purchase of Service Vehicles***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The MIAA invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Purchase of Service Vehicles*. Delivery of the goods shall be within ***sixty (60) calendar days*** after the receipt of the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Office of the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, MIAA* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM***.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below on ***March 29 to April 12, 2006*** and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Php 11,200.00 (VAT Inclusive)***. The method of payment will be ***Cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check (payable to Manila International Airport Authority)***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Bids and Awards Committee, MIAA* will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***April 21, 2006, 9:00 AM*** at ***Audio Visual Room, 4th floor, MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, Pasay City***.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***May 5, 2006, 9:00 AM***. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of any of the following or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
    a. CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK, MANAGER'S CHECK, BANK DRAFT OR IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract.
    b. BANK GUARANTEE – one and a half percent (1 ½%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract.
    c. SURETY BOND – two and a half percent (2 ½%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract; callable on demand, issued by the GSIS or by any reputable private insurance company, provided, that it is accompanied by the company's valid certificate of accreditation issued by the Insurance Commission (for private insurance company) and official receipt of payment of premium (GSIS and private insurance company).

    Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***May 5, 2006, 9:30 AM*** at the ***Audio Visual Room, 4th floor, MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, Pasay City***. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative who choose to attend at the stated address.
9. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
10. The ***MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
Joanne G. La Madrid
4th floor, MIAA Administration Bldg., MIA Road Pasay City
Trunkline: (02) 877-1109 loc. 3795
Fax No.: (02) 877-1801

(Sgd.) ATTY. OSCAR L. PARAS, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 30 & April 6, 2006)

BSP sees drop in March inflation; expects no change in key policy rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL INFLATION rate is likely to soften to 6.9 percent in March or, at worst, match the 7.6 percent posted in February, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"The (BSP's) inflation forecast for March is 6.9-7.6 percent, the same or lower than February, due to lower domestic pump prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco also said there was no need for the BSP to replicate the 25-percentage interest rate hike sanctioned by the US Federal Reserve on targeted funds rate yesterday.

"Given the projected deceleration of inflation in the second half, the nature of price pressures, and the positive performance of the peso, there seems to be no compelling reason to change the policy stance at this time," Tetangco said.

The US Fed, under its new chair Ben Bernanke, raised its key interest rate for the 15th straight time by another 25 basis points to 4.75 percent. The US monetary authority also hinted this was not the last of its tightening measures given continuing inflation risks in the world's biggest economy.

But the BSP has kept its overnight borrowing rate steady at 7.5 percent, and overnight lending at 9.75 percent since October last year.

A narrowing differential between interest rates in the US and the Philippines that could cause foreign exchange volatility is only one consideration in the BSP's monetary management, which uses an inflation-targeting approach.

The BSP believes the country's inflation path is now on a downtrend after the recent hike in the value-added tax rate caused the February rate to spike to 7.6 percent from 6.7 percent in January.

Nevertheless, the government expects average inflation rate in 2006 to exceed its official target of 4-5 percent. The latest forecast by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee pegs the average inflation rate to range between 7.3 percent and 7.9 percent this year.

Last year, the BSP hiked its overnight rates by a sum of 75 basis points, on top of a 2-percentage hike in the reserve requirement to protect its inflation targets.

Cebu Pacific offers P1 airline seats

Low fare leader follows up success of P10 promo

By Daxim L. Lucas

CAPITALIZING ON THE SUCCESS OF its recent P10 fare promo, budget airline Cebu Pacific Air Inc. is now offering seats for only one peso on flights to any of its domestic destinations from June 20 to October 18 this year.

The one-peso fare started yesterday and will run until April 2 or until the seats are sold out.

There are more than 50,000 seats available for this promo, extended on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusive of taxes and surcharges.

"We are the country's low fare leader and we will always have the lowest fares to any destination we fly to," Cebu Pacific general manager Bong Mojica said in a statement. "It's all about making flying more affordable to more people And now that we're giving out our seats practically for free, almost anyone can fly."

He added that the airline was encouraged by the success of its previous promo, which was launched to coincide with its 10th anniversary celebrations.

"We realized how much the market can be stimulated to travel and book ahead of time," Mojica said. "It's something we want to further promote because we want Filipinos to realize that, the earlier they book their tickets, the less they really end up paying for them."

The Cebu Pacific official advised clients to book their seats though the airline's website (www.cebupacificair.com) for added convenience.

"With our new planes, the lowest fares, and the ease of getting tickets, the only thing left for you to do is decide where you want to go," Mojica said.

Cebu Pacific's last promo—which offered seats at P10 for travel during the June-October off-peak season—managed to attract over 150,000 seat sales, according to the airline.

This figure is 50 percent higher than the 100,000 seats which the airline had initially made available during the promo period.

The additional sales generated by the promo could be accommodated on scheduled Cebu Pacific flights for the period, without the need to deploy additional flights.

The promo allowed the airline to sell between 8 percent to 9 percent of seats available for sale during the period.

Inclusive of taxes, VAT levies, fuel, service, and insurance charges, round trip passage to a Visayas destination will cost slightly over P2,000 per passenger, while a round trip ticket to Mindanao destinations will cost close to P2,500.

Peso rise will bring down '06 Customs collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS IS EXPECTING to lose about P8.8 billion in potential duty collections this year because of the peso's recent gains against the US dollar.

The BOC's revenue-collection performance is adversely affected by the appreciation of the peso because a stronger local currency means lower dollar value of imported goods, upon which tariffs are based.

According to estimates by the Department of Finance, the BOC's revenue is normally slashed by about P2.2 billion for every unit of appreciation of the peso.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the interagency body tasked with setting the government's economic targets, earlier revised its projected average of the peso for 2006. From the original forecast that the peso will settle between 55 and 57 against the US dollar, the peso is now seen to average at a stronger range of 51 to 53 against the greenback.

The DBCC normally uses the midpoint of a given range of projection in making its economic and fiscal programs. The original midpoint projection of 56 to a dollar was therefore revised to 52, reflecting the government's expectation that the local currency would strengthen by P4 from the original forecast.

The DBCC expects imports to reach $52.6 billion this year, higher than last year's $47.457 billion. But the higher duty collection that is supposed to result from the expected rise in imports would be partially offset by the appreciation of the peso.

A finance official, however, said the government was not worried about the possible impact of a lower BOC collection on the government's fiscal position. This was because the potential losses in BOC collection brought about by a higher value of the peso would likely be offset by higher revenues to be generated from the recent increase in the value-added tax rate.

The VAT rate was increased from 10 to 12 percent last Feb. 1. The DOF said the move was estimated to generate P75 billion in incremental revenues this year.

Flu-hit nations turn to RP poultry

By Christine A. Gaylican

COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND the European Union that have been badly hit by the avian flu are now turning to the Philippines for their supply of poultry products.

Philippine poultry raisers have begun exporting to South Africa, Germany and Russia, aside from neighboring countries Hong Kong, Singapore and Indonesia in the first semester, according to the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators Inc. (Pabi).

Top poultry raisers include San Miguel Corp., Tyson-Agro-Ventures Inc., Universal Robina Corp. and Vitarich Corp.

"There is an ongoing accreditation for Hong Kong, which we hope could set our direction for poultry exports this year," said Ruben Pascual, chair of the poultry exporters board.

Pascual is hoping that the Hong Kong trade will serve as a gateway to the broader China market.

Pascual expects that the growth in poultry exports will make up for the slack in local demand, as consumers appear to be tightening their spending even further.

Commercial raisers have also received inquiries from the Middle East and Africa for the sale of whole or processed chicken products.

Pabi members are now seeking a "halal" certification in order to export to Middle East countries.

The grant of a "Halal" accreditation from a Muslim country would mean that the poultry products have passed through proper preparation procedures.

Brunei, also a Muslim nation, has expressed its interest in acquiring poultry products from the Philippines, the agriculture department said.

The P196-billion Philippine poultry industry has so far been spared from the bird flu outbreak that has devastated other nations.

The avian influenza has already killed millions of chicken in South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, the former Soviet republics and Europe. It has also caused the death of more than 50 people across Asia.

According to World Health Organization officials, the avian flu is getting to be a major source of concern, fearing that the virus will develop the ability to infect humans.

At present, there is no known defense against the disease once the avian flu mutation spreads to humans.

Joint venture benefits seen to trickle down to seamen

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN Japan-based Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) and locally based Magsaysay Shipping Lines recently invested over P150 million to help improve the training of Filipino seafarers.

In a press briefing, MOL president Akimitsu Ashida said his company's investment in the Magsaysay Institute of Shipping (MIS) is meant to ensure the quality of seaman cadets, many of whom are hired by MOL—one of Japan's largest cargo shipping firms.

In particular, the new funds are being used to increase the number of cadets in the school from 240 to 450, he said.

The investment will also be used to upgrade the MIS' management facilities, acquire new training instruments, as well as construct a new dormitory in Cavite, according to Magsaysay Shipping's CEO Doris Magsaysay-Ho.

"Our greatest resource is our people," she said. "Each bulk carrier costs about $50 million. Naturally, you'll want the best people running that."

During the briefing, officials revealed that Magsaysay-Mitsui O.S.K. Marine (MagMOL) will go into full ship management operations that will include training, manning and shore-based management.

Ashida also revealed plans to hire more Filipino seamen over the next four years.

Ashida said 70 percent of Mitsui's 20,200 seamen on payroll are Filipinos. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Shares . . .

From page B1

Losers outnumbered gainers 53 to 32, and 46 stocks closed flat.

Volume was 1.5 billion shares worth P1.18 billion.

Citiseconline analyst Mark Alan Canizares said he considered prices of some blue chips still expensive following sharp gains last week, although others that have fallen in the past two sessions have started to recover.

"But the overall trend of the market is still up. These are just normal corrections along the way," Canizares said. *AFP*

Finance seeks repeal . . .

From page B1

selected industries up to a maximum of 20 years, which the DOF considered as too long.

The DOF prefers that the current income tax holiday of six years be retained.

The BOI and the DOF have been at loggerheads over the issue of fiscal incentives because of their conflicting mandates. While the BOI is tasked with attracting the entry of more investments, partly through the granting of incentives, the DOF has to address the government's gaping budget deficit.

The DOF maintained its position that the government need not grant generous fiscal incentives just to attract investments, adding that other factors like a stable regulatory environment and infrastructure development were factors often considered by investors.

The BOI, on the other hand, said it believed incentives were helpful in attracting more investments to the country, which currently lags its Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of generating foreign direct investments.

The P300 billion in foregone revenues each year were equivalent to about 40 percent of the government's total revenues, according to a Department of Finance study.

The DOF inventoried 146 tax incentives laws as of end-2004, including laws with investment and non-investment-related tax perks as well as various provisions under the country's tax, tariff and customs and local government codes.

The total amount of tax and duty exemptions granted in 2004 alone was P282.76 billion, based on a report to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves dated March 24.

In 2003, total foregone revenues from the same measures were estimated at P299.23 billion.

"This amount represents a 5.71 percent decline from the 2003 levels but remains staggering as it represents 5.85 percent of GDP (gross domestic product), 40.41 percent of national government revenues and 151.18 percent of national government deficits," the memorandum said.

A DOF official explained that the complicated web of fiscal incentives was the reason why the government always took over a year to quantify the revenue impact of fiscal sweeteners.

Of the total amount of tax and duty exemptions in 2004, P156.25 billion or 55.25 percent were granted through the Board of Investments, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, special economic zones/free ports and industrial estates.

The Peza alone granted P133.58 billion in fiscal incentives, bulk of which represented tax- and duty-free importation made by its locators.

"As to type of tax, the bulk of exemptions were in the form of VAT exemptions, amounting to P219.66 billion," the DOF study said.

• TIME LAPSE MACHINE
• MEDIA DESTROYER
• MONEY COUNTER
• CHECK WRITER
• FAX MACHINES

P SPECIAL PRICE

OFFICE MEDIA DESTROYER MD-800
– Shreds papers, CDs, floppy disks and credit cards
Shred Type: Cross-Cut
Shred Width: 4 x 32 mm
P7,450

OFFICE CHECK WRITER
· LCD Display
· Built in Five Different Currency Symbols
DB-310 P4,950

CURRENCY COUNTER
OFFICE MR-05IE
· Heavy Duty Features
· Best for Banking Systems, Foreign Currency Changers, etc
P11,500

SANYO TIME LAPSE MACHINE
24-HRS. TIME RECORDING
GTL-924
Good for CCTV SYSTEMS
P8,500

PLAIN-PAPER FAX MACHINES olivetti
• Bubble Ink-Jet Technology
• Affordable Ink-Cartridge
FAX-LAB 210 P7,950
OFX-560 P6,950

DEALERS ARE WELCOME
SAME PRICE NATIONWIDE
www.elitemachinesinc.com

Exclusive Distributor:
ELITE MACHINES, INC.
1465 Golden Building,
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City
Connecting all departments
722-8888

G/F, LRDC Bldg.
22 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City
8877238 /56 /68 /80 /55 /96
8880698

Rm. 301 Pacific Bldg.
460 Quintin Paredes corner
Gandara Sts., Binondo Manila
2476012 • 2474039 /31 /32 /33
Fax: 2473892

Espiritu Building,
33 Gen. Maxilom Ave.
Cebu City
(032) 2336711 to 16
Fax: (032) 2336718 or 25

Door 2, Lua Bldg., Quirino Ave. cor. J.P. Laurel St., Davao City
Tel. (082) 2270321-23 Fax (082) 2270321

GOLDSTAR

Earn as much as 6.0%!

Deposit Amount	Interest Rates %
In Pesos	30 days to 3 years
50,000 - 99,999	3.50
100,000 - 499,999	4.50
500,000 - 999,999	5.25
1.0MM - 4.99MM	5.75
5.0MM - 9.99MM	5.75
10.0MM and up	6.00

Enjoy monthly interest earnings for 1, 2 or 3 year placements.
*Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.

Open an account now at any PSBank branch!

PSBank Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Text PSBANK PTD <your name> <your landline no.> <your email address> then send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

GLOBE TELECOM

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual stockholders' meeting of GLOBE TELECOM, INC. will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel InterContinental Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City on TUESDAY, 04 APRIL 2006 at 9:00 A.M. with the following:

AGENDA

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report of Officers
4. New Business

4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management adopted in the ordinary course of business during the preceding year.

5. Election of Directors (including the Independent Directors)
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Stockholders of record as of 23 February 2006 shall be the stockholders entitled to vote at this meeting. As per By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from 23 February to 02 March 2006, inclusive.

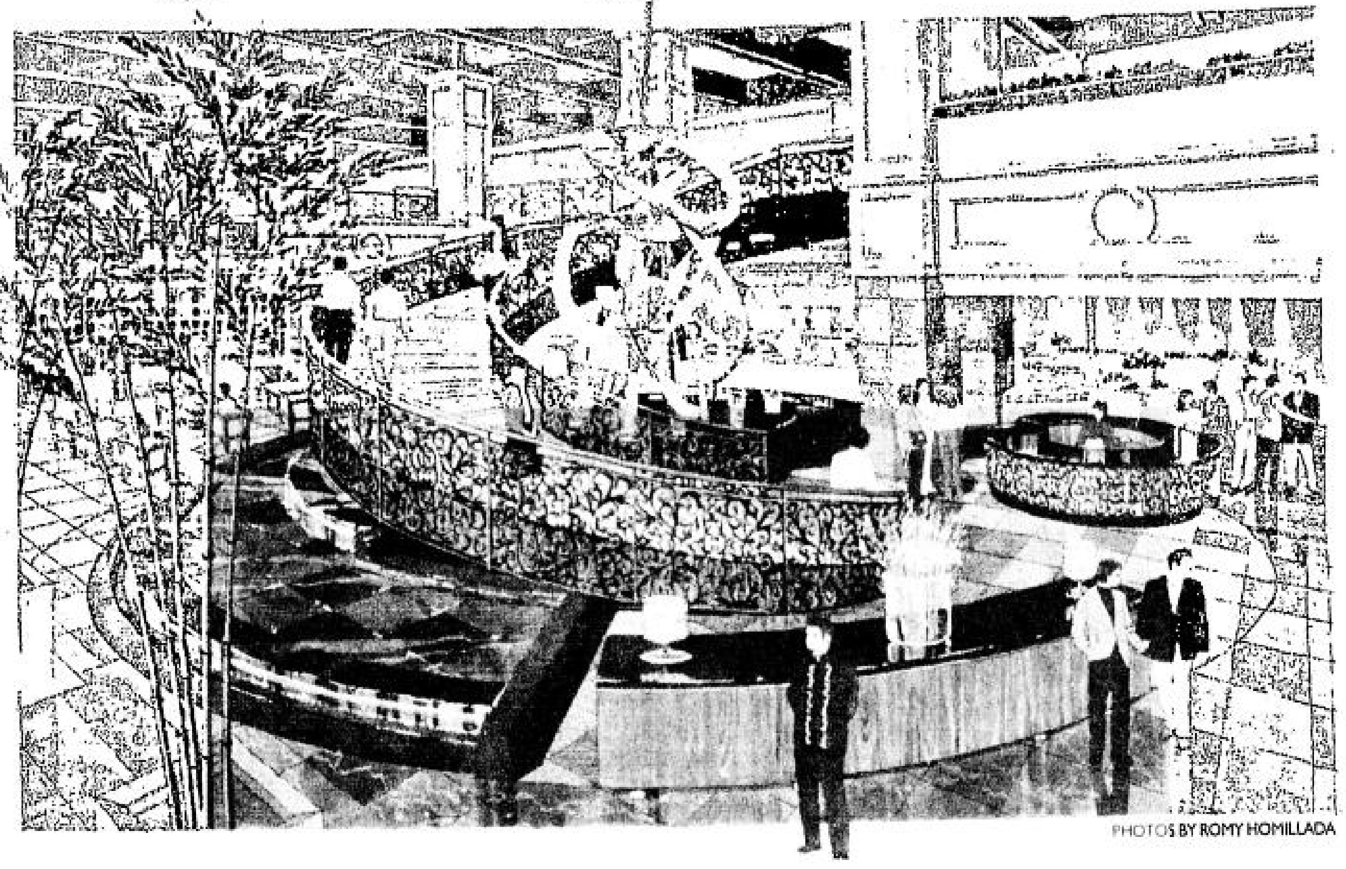
Mandaluyong City, 07 February 2006.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Sgd.) RENATO O. MARZAN
Corporate Secretary

Spiral is open, get caught in a spin

Hotel Philippine Plaza breaks new ground with Spiral, a new concept of a 'culinary theater' that blends international cuisine with a dash of drama. Here, the chefs are the performers, the kitchens their stage, and the diners the eager audience



PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE EXPERIENCE OF DINING AT HOTEL Philippine Plaza is now something you will cherish and crave for, long after you have sat down and enjoyed the last piece of a sumptuous meal at Spiral, the newest and trendiest restaurant to open in the heart of the hotel and in the heart of the city.

With Spiral, Accor, the new management company of Hotel Philippine Plaza, brings to Manila its trademark and world-renowned French flair in food, service and design.

Spiral, the name of the restaurant that also suggests the grand majestic spiral staircase leading to it, is by far the biggest dining space (2,500 sq. m. and 480 seating capacity) in a hotel that boasts of six prominently positioned "interactive kitchens."

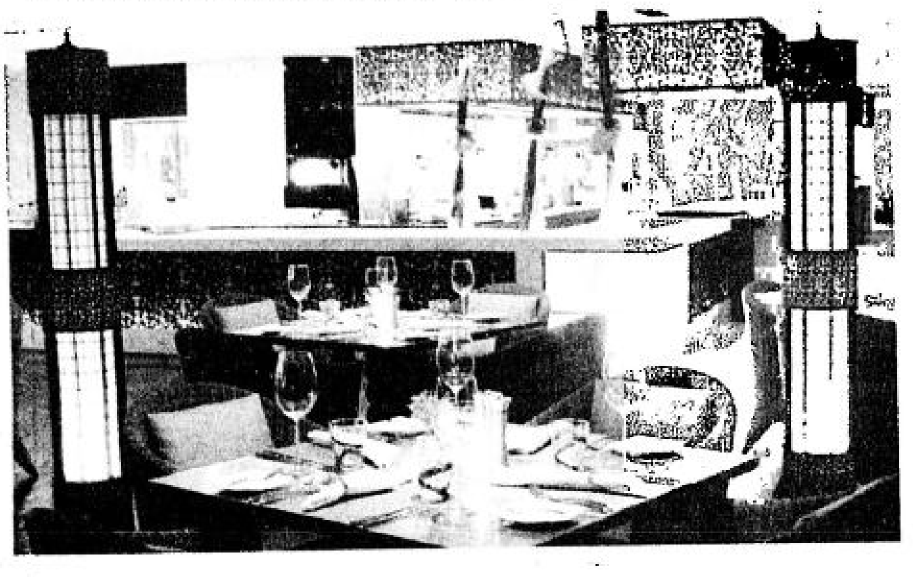
You can sample the whole range of authentic cuisines from East to West from these kitchens where you can observe the chefs perform their culinary craft. Sample favorite dishes from the Philippines, China, Japan, Korea, India, Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean (Italy, France, Spain, Lebanon), and even have a special dish made for you. You can also enjoy the fabulous array of desserts and pastries prepared in the classic French tradition, which Accor is known for.

An arena of culinary theater

Bernd Schneider, Hotel Philippine Plaza's general manager, likens Spiral into an arena of "culinary theater" with chefs as the talented "kitchen artists" displaying their craft magnificently before the dining guests, their staging place are the six exposed sections of interactive kitchens.

Bringing all-day dining to a new level of creativity and workmanship, Spiral according to Schneider "is an innovative concept that blends international cuisine with a dash of drama. Here, the chefs are the performers and the restaurant their stage."

To heighten the culinary act, Spiral brings together an international team of Master Chefs from the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Korea, China, India and the Philippines ensuring the highest level of quality.



The culinary team is led by Executive Chef Luke Dale Roberts, who is known for opening new and trendy restaurants within Accor Group such as The Loft in the Mercure Hotel Bankside, London and The Square in Novotel Apollo Singapore.

Dishes from the different regions

For the Japanese culinary section, Master Chef Yoshimi Igarashi prepares light, healthy, and fresh Japanese cuisine with authentic Japanese taste. Igarashi dazzles the dining audience with traditional Japanese hot dishes and innovative appetizers served in mini Rosenthal crystals. Igarashi whips up favorites such as tempura, koshiage, sushi and sashimi and yakitori stations.

Indian Chef Indrajit Roy perks up the guests' palate with a selection of the best dishes from the different regions of India. Savor a range of kebabs, Indian breads, curries and gravies—all prepared with the distinct spiciness in charcoal fired tandoor, India's very own mud clay oven. "Indian food is best flavored when it is cooked in slow fire," says Roy.

Hong Kong chef and master of the hot wok Chef Siu Man Yeung prepares a range of traditional and modern Chinese dishes, noodles and freshly roasted Chinese barbecue at the Chinese corner. Visiting Dimsum Chef Chan Chun Wai excites dimsum lovers with his unique creations. Korean Chef Cho Seung Hyun whips up popular and traditional Korean dishes.

Chef Marco Legasto, one of Manila's youngest and dynamic chefs, heads the Mediterranean kitchen. A wide range of hot and cold dishes distinct from parts of Europe and the Middle East are offered at this one big corner.

Highlights of which include an organic salad bar, pizzas freshly baked from the pizza oven, antipasto, fresh seafood counter, Middle Eastern Mezze dishes and fresh pastas and risottos prepared in a minute. Indulge in the cold kitchen, which offers fresh organic salads, a seafood icebed, cold cuts, different cheeses, and sushis and sashimis.

A state-of-the-art grill station churns out the freshest seafood of the season and the juiciest mouthwatering steaks.

The pastry section is a true eye catcher and outstanding. It is like the candy corner in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory with a nice and neat arrangement in glass encasements of mouth-watering sweets, cakes, desserts and chocolates. Creative Pastry Chef Mac Macatangay says he prepares 25 types of pastries every day—fresh strawberries dipped in pink and dark chocolate fountains, French tarts and pastries, fruity cheesecakes, chocolate truffles, soufflés and crepes. For the health conscious, try Mac's famous specialty the sugar free dessert.

Experience the Spiral difference

French Assistant Food and Beverage Manager Helene Lauras has selected only the finest wines the world over for the wine cellar that houses 3,000 selections. Some are sourced from St. Emilion wines, the region boasting of the best selection of French wines, and from Bordeaux that offers the finest Australian Riesling. Lauras says a team of sommeliers will be on hand to advise guests on the extensive wine selection. Spiral will also offer special wine dinners in the private dining rooms of the Mediterranean section.

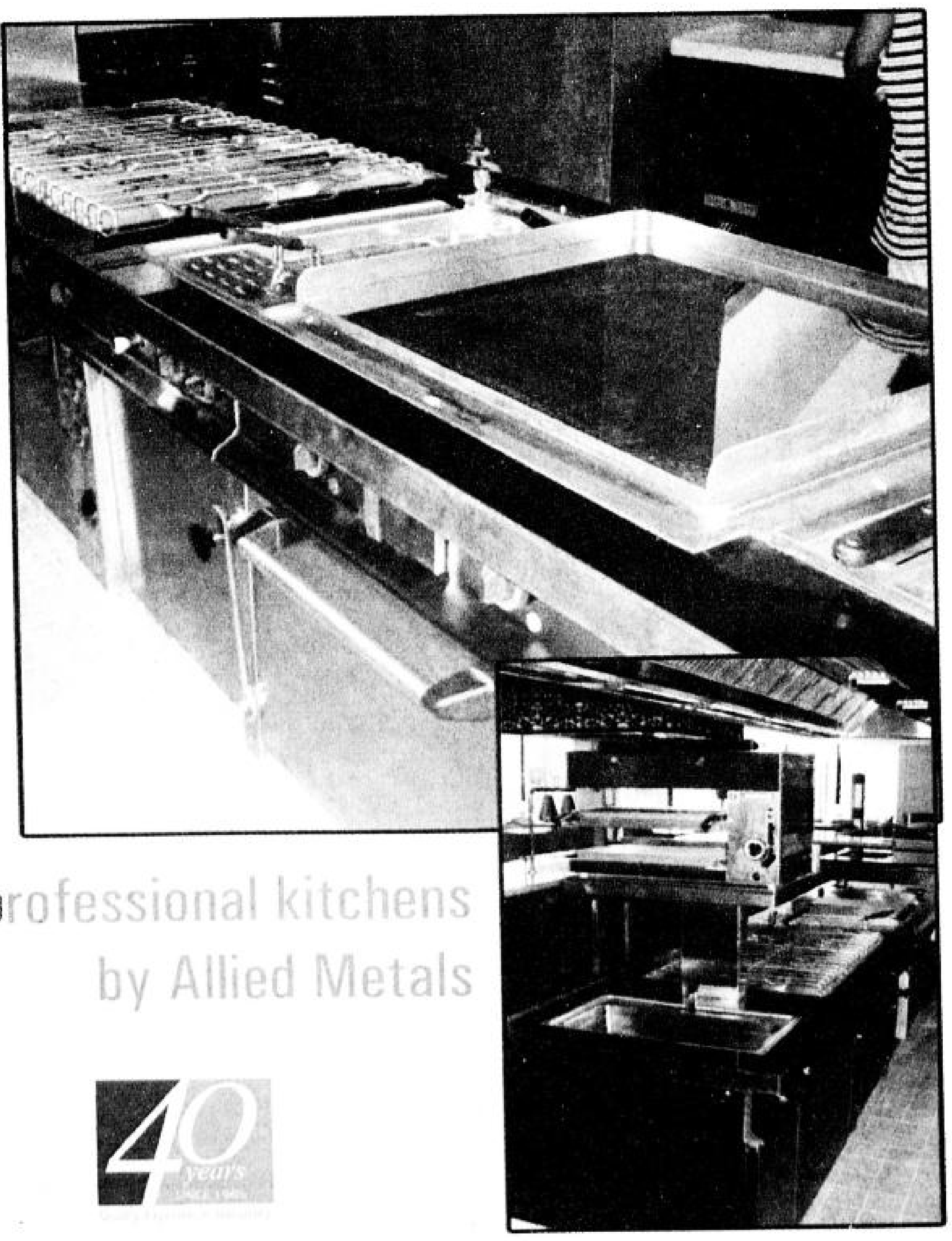
The Spiral service team, according to Executive Assistant Manager Mo Ihsan, is a group of outstanding Filipino youth motivated and inspired to make the "Spiral difference." He says, "These hotel college graduates will be an asset in the success of Spiral through their commitment to excellence. They have undergone an extensive training in food and beverage and other skills."

Elegant. Upbeat. Modern. Interactive. Spiral's atmosphere is anything but resonating an urban resort. Natural outdoor environment spills toward the landscaped veranda near the poolside offering a great a view of Manila Bay and its mesmerizing sunset. Outdoor sitting areas are also available for guests who wish to enjoy their meals al fresco while breathing the sea breeze.

Water is incorporated into Spiral's design. Open deck pond outdoors, waterfall hugging the spiral staircase, and a wall waterfall in the Chinese section give the restaurant a soothing ambiance.

"The spectacular entrance with the spiral staircase beckons with a breathtaking view of the bay and its famous sunset," says Schneider.

To make the eyes feast for the overwhelming choices, to satisfy the huge hunger, and to delight the senses, after all, is Spiral's main motive.



professional kitchens
by Allied Metals

40 years

ALLIED METALS

Sales Office 545 EDSA, Bona Commercial Building
Cubao, Quezon City
Telephone (632) 721-1349, 722-0984
(632) 721-3538, 721-1386
Fax Number (632) 722 1222
E-mail Address info@alliedmetals.com.ph
Website www.alliedmetals.com.ph

Style, comfort and pleasurable dining

THE ART OF TABLE CULTURE IS AT THE heart of a Spiral dining experience. The chosen China for the a-la-carte dining is Rosenthal's Loft and Free Spirit collection designed by Robin Platt.

Elegant glassware is supplied by Schottzwiesel of Germany. Delicious desserts come in Rosenthal's delicate and colorful transparent tiny bowls. Elegant stainless steel breadbaskets from Alfi of Germany carry the different selections of bread. The stainless steel salt and pepper mill are by Cole and Mason. The sleek, slim and elegant flatware is from the Bamboo collection of Sambonet from Italy. Kids will learn the art and fun of dining through the selection of WMF Germany's flatware Hits for Kids collection.

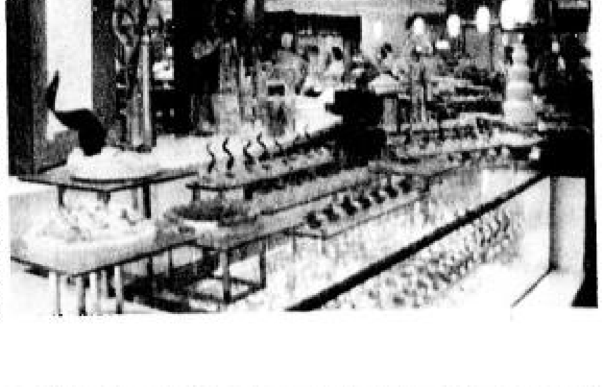
Food in elegant containers is kept warm by the magic of induction, the latest in buffet technology. The induction plates and containers are from Schott Ceran of Germany. Coffee and Tea lovers will enjoy the pleasures of coffee and tea with WMF's beautifully designed glass and stainless steel collection. Sip from cafe latte sets, cappuccino cups, coffee presses designed by Caroline Schafer. Tea pots and cups from the Zeno Collection is by designer Makio Hasuike.

The architecture of Spiral is highlighted by the 21-foot bronze sculpture by Philippine national artist Ed Castillo. Rising from the center of the spiral staircase, the artwork entitled "Rhythmic movements," described by Castrillo as "man's tribute to nature by using industrial elements such as bronze sheets and tubes to mimic the graceful movement of a developing plant."

Spiral was designed by interior designer Masakazu Koizumi of Spin Design Studio Japan who defines his concept as a marriage of both the external and the internal environments.

Creative Kitchen Planners International, who has worked on some of the most prestigious hotel projects in Asia from Shanghai to Bali to Phuket, has designed Spiral's interactive buffet food stations and show kitchens.

Style, comfort and pleasurable dining and the use of natural elements in a modern surrounding define Spiral.



TWIST
&
SHOUT

Get caught up in the vortex of Manila's newest dining sensation. Sample international delights from a myriad of live cooking stations; Chinese, Japanese, Indian, South East Asian, Mediterranean and more or celebrate and entertain in luxurious private dining rooms, all set against the stunning backdrop of the sun rising and setting over Manila Bay. Don't miss out, get caught up in the spin today!

For reservations please call 832-6988 or 551-5555 ext. 1086 or e-mail spiral@hotelphilplaza.com.

Spiral
A NEW TWIST ON LIFE

Hotel Philippine Plaza
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard Pasay City, 1300, Manila, Philippines. Tel: (63 2) 551 5555 Fax: (63 2) 551 5610 e-mail: spiral@hotelphilplaza.com

THELMA ARNALDO vda. de ARCENAS

March 29, 1923 – March 28, 2006

Widow of the late Mayor Teodoro Roxas Arcenas

of Roxas City, Capiz

We, the Children	and the Grandchildren
Jon & Noni Isada	**Nana/John Ong, JoAnn/Richard Lim, Ticot, Jong**
Tommy† & Chelo Arnaldo†	**Kenneth, Karen/Rhett Asis, Christian**
Lyn & Roger Atun	**Iris/Clyde Camagay, Andre, Sharon, JR**
Dick & Cecile Belangel	**Daisylyn, Dandan**
Bingbing & Larry Cariño	**JP, Christy, Jong†**
Bongbong & Hannah Orleans	**Angelo, Rexie, Ria, Beewee**
Greg & Jo-ann Martin	**Jo-Anne Marie†, Greggy†**
Perthie & John Fuentes	**Hannie, Justin**
Sochie	**JL, Margot**
Tinton & Elaine Barlizo	
Baby & Lia Frial	**Trisha, Teo, Tilos, Tati, Travis**
Cosette & Bingo Altavas	**Joao, Mica, Jobeem, Sofia, Nadine**
Doroy† & Stella Escutin	**Nikki, Carmela**
Deme	

Request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul. Her body lies in state at the Divine Jesus Memorial Chapel, Banica, Roxas City. Interment will be at the Roman Catholic Cemetery on 1 April 2006, first Saturday of the month, after the 3 o'clock Requiem Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Roxas City.

ANTONIO FULE BELEN

of San Pablo City and Davao City
November 15, 1933 - March 26, 2006

He died in the Grace of the Lord on March 26, 2006.

He is survived by his wife **Ising**; his children **Tito** and **Liza**, **Bingbing**, **Bella** and **Ariel**, **Ybeth**, **Bernard** and **Lucille**; his grandchildren **Ella**, **Aaron**, **Ara**, **Joshua**, **Bryan** and **Blendon**; his brother **Ben**; his sisters **Elsie** and **Berting**, **Cora** (†) and **Banding** (†), **Adeling** and **Max** and **Oyie**; his brothers and sisters-in-law and nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Sasa Road, Davao City.

Interment will be at the Davao Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass. Novena Masses are held from March 27 to April 4, 2006 at the San Pablo City Cathedral and at the Redemptorist Church at Davao City.

Our Dearly Beloved

GREGORIO INGCO BAUTISTA

(10 March 1935 – 27 March 2006)

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on the 27th of March 2006
at the age of 71.

His loving son, **VINCENT**; parents **MACARIO M. BAUTISTA** (†) and **CONSOLACION I. BAUTISTA** (†); brothers/sister, **DR. MACARIO I. BAUTISTA**, **ARISTON** (†), **AVELINO** (†), **OSMUNDO** (†), **JESUS**, **AMELIA B. MUÑOZ** (†), **ANTONIO** (†), **FRANCISCO** and **VICENTE**, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on March 31, 2006, Friday.
Mass will be at 11:00 a.m.

More
Classified Ads
on pages A9, B2 & B7

DEATH NOTICE

JOSE H. DAVID

Died on March 26, 2006 at the age of 78.

He is survived by his wife Virginia Cachuela David; and children Armando, Romeo and Grace.

His body lies at the family residence at #79 Aramismis St., Project 7, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

Let our Funeral Home & Crematory ease your burden

•Elegant & Spacious Chapels •US-made Caskets •Catered Meals •Flowers by Holland Blooms •Imported Registry Books & Thank You Cards •Personalized Guest Information Cards •Horse-drawn Hearse or Cadillac De Ville Hearse •Obituary Ads

845-2440 • 845-2334 to 38

COL. (Ret) ROLANDO J. POSADAS

PMA CLASS 1945
(January 12, 1922 - March 28, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Carmen R. Posadas**; his children and children-in-law **Roger & Merlyn**, **Toti & Emil**, **Helen & Ambet** (†), **Raymond & Beth**, **Dick & Janette**, **Romy & Joy**, and **Carol & Art**, together with his grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary, Quezon City. Necrological services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, 01 April 2006. Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 12:00 noon on Sunday, 02 April 2006, following a final Holy Mass at St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

The Diocese of Ilagan
announces the death of

REV. FR. JOSE GANNABAN INGARAN

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on March 27, 2006 at the age of 84.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of the Visitation Shrine, (Guibang) Gamu, Isabela.

Interment will be at the Cauayan Memorial Garden, Cauayan City, on March 31, 2006, Friday, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Visitation Shrine (Guibang) to be presided by His Excellency Most Rev. Sergio L. Utleg, DD, Bishop of Ilagan and concelebrated by the clergy of Isabela.

RICARDO P. DE GUIA

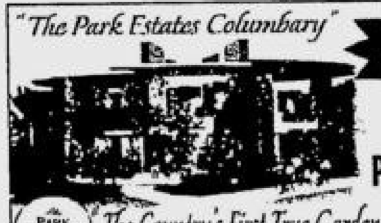
Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on 27 March 2006, at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife Norma; children Efren & Fe, Lani & Jun, Erza & Verlou, Oli & Rene, Baby & Ronald; grandchildren Odette, Lizette & Nelson, Suzette & Daryl, Louie, Lorraine, Jenny & Mike, Wenny, Nat-Nat, Oliver & Kristine, Sheryl & John, Tess & Mark, Angelo, Michelle & Rico, Joseph & Isha, Ariz, Frances; great grandchildren Kyan, Jairo, Kyle, Hezron, Hanock, Andrei, Jimver, Patis, Raphael, Michael, Ysa, Yya, Kim, Kamila request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Chapel B-8, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on April 1, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.



"The Park Estates Columbary"

We're at THE FORT!! For Only P950/mo.

PARK ESTATES *The Country's First True Garden Columbary*

633-9199/637-5570/637-5568

CLASSIFIEDS

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The asset being offered on an "as-is, where-is" basis is a parcel of land with an area of 15,319 sq.m., formerly owned by MARSTEEL CORPORATION (MC) located at Brgy. Baesa, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The above asset is being offered at an Indicative Price of PESOS: SEVENTY SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY (P77,360,950).

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on April 26, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may secure the sale documents for a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office.

If the Offer for Sale becomes a failure PMO reserves the right to negotiate immediately with the Offerors or any third party for the purchase of the Asset.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with PMO.

For more information, please call Ms. Jane V. Santiago at telephone numbers 818-4733; 892-2145.

(PDI - March 30, 31 & April 1, 2006)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Concreting of Road Network of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base Mabini, Batangas

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through the approved Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of Philippine **Peso Five Million Eight Hundred Ninety Four Thousand** (Php5,894,000.00) being the **Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the Concreting of Road Network of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base (BX06-1211). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

PNOC EC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Concreting of Road Network of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *April 19, 2006 @ 4:00 P.M. at PNOC EC Procurement Section, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Pesos Five Hundred (Php500.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. **The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on** ***April 26, 2006 up to 3:00 P.M. at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City***. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at *Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* on or before *3:00 P.M. of April 26, 2006*.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on May 8, 2006*.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Php2,000.00 Pesos*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before May 11, 2006 @ 4:00 P.M.

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***May 12, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M. in PNOC EC Energy Supply Base, Malinaga, Mabini, Batangas***.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 2:00 P.M. of May 25, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond and in an amount of Php147,350.00 Pesos or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *May 25, 2006, at 2:15 P.M. in PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.

Completion of the Works is required by *Seventy Five (75) Calendar days*.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 30 & April 6, 2006)

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST

VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES

ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless

SKIN DISEASES

ALLERGIES RE-CURRENT
UTI, ALMORANAS,
ERECTION PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR

COMPLETE LABORATORY

Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.

TEL. NOS. 4392706
4373898/9139474

PCCI

PCCI WILL BE
CLOSED
ON MARCH 31 (FRI)
AND APRIL 1
(SAT), 2006
FOR THE ANNUAL
COMPANY OUTING

FOR SALE

2 MOSLER BANK VAULT DOOR
WITH TIME DELAY
MODEL: Symbolic 7000
2.0m x 1.10m
2.0m x 0.95m
Php 500,000.00 each
Tel no.: 632-1010 loc 651

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DAR Agusan del Norte is inviting all licensed GE Survey Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for subdivision survey of collective Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOA's) located within the Municipalities of the Province of Agusan del Norte covering an estimated area of 1,000 hectares, more or less.

A pre bid conference will be held on April 18, 2006 at the address mentioned above at 10:00 A.M. BID Forms will be made available during the pre bid conference.

Deadline for submission of eligibility documents will be on May 2, 2006 until 5:00 P.M. only.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO R. BITANGCOR**
BAC Chairperson

NOTED:

(Sgd.) **ANDRE B. ATEGA**
OIC-PARO II

(PDI--March 30 & April 6, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT **DPC PLACEMENT & MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.**, LOCATED AT 1365 E. RODRIGUEZ AVE., CUBAO, QUEZON CITY IS NO LONGER IN OPERATION, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006.

(PDI - March 30, 2006)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

NYL launches insurance riders for changing lifestyles

GETTING AN INSURANCE POLICY MAY not be the sexiest or most exciting subject, but it sure is an important topic that deserves attention. All it takes is one mishap or setback that isn't covered by an insurance policy and an individual or family could easily end up with little money, or worse, bankrupt.

Fast changing technology, fashion and lifestyles make it necessary for today's urban warrior to be forward-looking. There's no telling when unfortunate events will strike. While there's no surefire way to predict events, proper planning for the future remains the best defense to make life easier and more secure.

New York Life Philippines offers an innovative solution to address changing life needs. It recently launched a new innovation called Life Event Rider, available exclusively to new plan holders of the New York Life Big Apple Advantage Dollar Plan. A life insurance rider provides additional coverage for something specifically not covered with a primary policy.

A first-of-its-kind in the industry, the Life Event Rider from New York Life Philippines allows continuous insurance protection during certain life events that could drain one's financial resources. There are six life event riders covered: weddings; birth or adoption of a child; death of a spouse or child; loss of job through involuntary employment; divorce, legal separation or annulment; and natural disasters. When such events occur, plan holders can enjoy the benefit of a waiver in policy fees and the cost of insurance for up to four months.

"We want to offer our clients a whole menu of financial protection to fit their life event preferences or situations, whether planned or unplanned," said George May, president and CEO of New York Life Insurance Philippines. "The Life Event Rider is an expression of our company's commitment to address the needs of our planholders. It offers better protection, assuring them and their families of increased future financial security, especially during these tough times."

Life event rider benefits are valid after a six-month period. Plan holders are allowed to claim up to two life events per year and a total of five life events in a lifetime.

The New York Life Event Rider is available free of charge to new Big Apple Dollar Advantage plan holders until the end of June. For more information, call 818-HELP (4357).

CLUB FILIPINO CELEBRATES 20TH EDSA I ANNIVERSARY
The Club Filipino led by club president lawyer Roberto de Leon and the members of the board of directors celebrated the 20th anniversary of Edsa 1 - People Power Revolution.

Bits Clips

DOT's Tourism Jobs Fair '06

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM'S 1ST TOURISM Jobs Fair (TJF) will be held in Cebu City on April 4-5, Davao City on April 4-6, and Manila on April 6-8. The TJF will accommodate both graduates of tourism-related courses and the whole graduate population of March 2006 from any related field, those who are presently employed but are seeking career changes, and those who are unemployed or underemployed. Interested employers may log on to www.tourismjob.ph to fill out the registration/application form. Job-seekers may also register online or onsite at the specified dates and venues.

TCQC's 44th Commencement Exercises

TRINITY COLLEGE OF QUEZON CITY WILL CELEBRATE ITS 44th COMMENCEment Exercises on March 31, 8 a.m. at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Ma. Victoria P. Vergel de Dios, an outstanding alumna and hospital administrator of Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center will be the commencement speaker. True to its philosophy statement of "Preparing for Life through God Centered Education and Service", Trinity College aims to develop and nurture its students to become responsible, competent and productive citizens who will contribute to the achievement of a more humane society.

JASHS Batch '63 Grand Reunion

CALLING ALL GRADUATES OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS HIGH SCHOOL (ARELlano University) Batch 1963, there will be a grand reunion on May 19. It will be held at the Arellano University, Taft Avenue, Pasay City. For particulars, call the following: Sally Santiago or Elgen Paglinawan at 831-8077/834-7487, Cynthia Angeles-Gallo at 522-8145, Emily Marzan-Calanog at 845-5326 or 0916-7433904, Dr. Florencio Balbido at 831-1488 or 0916-3088085 and Benjamin Javier at 873-5589 or 0918-2994063.

Time for a 'real' cool change

GRADUATES, YOU REALLY HAVE A LOT OF EXCITING THINGS TO LOOK FORward to after receiving that hard-earned diploma. But before you hit the corporate world, make sure that you are equipped with a fit body to keep you going in any stress-filled environment. Count on World Balance sport shoes to lead you to your road to fitness. World Balance has a wide array of quality footwear at a tag within reach. To see the World Balance collection, visit www.worldbalance.com.ph.

The Eastern Laguna Visita Iglesia

THIS COMING HOLY WEEK DO YOUR ANNUAL CHURCH PILGRIMAGE OF seven churches or Visita Iglesia along the Eastern Laguna towns, known as "Baybayin". Let Biyaherong Pinoy and Exotik Garden Restaurant take you to a leisurely drive to the eastern side of Laguna province via Rizal (Antipolo) and enjoy a scenic view of rural Philippines as part of your pilgrimage this Holy Week. For more information, contact, Biyaherong Pinoy (a division of Events-Media Marketing Inc) at tel. nos: 751-5200, 0920-3660534, for tour bookings.

Auto Consumer 2006 promotes industry

HEAD SOUTH AND CHECK OUT THE LATest in the local motoring world, the "Auto Consumer 2006 Carshow"! Opening its doors to the public March 29, the show is scheduled to run until April 2 at the Carousel Court of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang.

The "Auto Consumer 2006 Carshow" is a project of the Lica Automotive Group headed by chair Felix H. Limcaoco Jr. The project aims to combine all of its affiliates into one big event, driven by the corporate objective of providing "total customer satisfaction".

Amidst the continuing economic and political turmoil in the country today, the event has something positive to offer the buying public, according to Tey Sornet, general manager of Team Nissan who spearheads Nissan Southwoods, Westgate Alabang and Nissan Shaw. Great deals will be offered during the show, such as a low down payment promo, zero-interest deals, and flexible monthly amortizations.

Highlights of the event are the 5-day sale, motorcade, daily raffles and on-site facilities for quick auto-loan approval, trade-in, comprehensive insurance and test drives.

The event promises to promote the motoring industry by fielding in the latest car models from BMW, Chevrolet, Hyundai, Nissan and Suzuki. The "Auto Consumer 2006 Carshow" is just the first leg of a series of car shows which will be on tour in various malls.

List of participating dealers are Autozentrum BMW, Nissan Westgate Alabang, Chevrolet Shaw, Chevrolet Pasig, Nissan Southwoods, Hyundai, Suzuki Shaw, Rapide Auto Services, Nissan Shaw, Big O's-Kwikparts, Hertz Car Rental, and supported by Old Swiss Inn, San Francisco Coffee, Standard Insurance, Kelseat, Aguila Auto Glass, Goldrich Car Accessories, Eurodecals and many more.

Malayan Bank adapts to innovation model

MALAYAN BANK HAS ADAPTED TO AN INNOvation paradigm previously developed by its executive director Jay Luzuriaga for foreign businesses which is a combination of cultivating communities and incremental innovations initiatives. This model is being used to originate and enhance its new mix of nontraditional banking services as competitive advantages. Its nontraditional mix include the doble-doble power saver program; the community development banking approach; the financial butler and paglingap-sa-kapuso last-mile program for overseas Filipinos; the microfinance community outreach program; the Singapore--Business.com collaboration for internet platform and online portal for Philippine SME's and Filipino entrepreneurs; multipoint micromarketing channels; improved dollar saver program; and, the branch mentoring program. It continues to be aggressive in the contract-to-sell real estate mortgage market and consumer loan market for its traditional banking products. It can orient its interested institutional clients about the innovation model on a selective basis. Malayan Bank's principal shareholders are the owners of GMA Network, Majalco Group and Liberty Flourmills.

REPUBLICAN COLLEGE
42-18TH Ave., Murphy, Quezon City
E-mail: republicancollege1949@yahoo.com

"Where affordable quality learning blends well with life's daily work for community and nation building"

"Home of Top Criminology Board Passers"

COURSES OFFERED:

- GRADUATE STUDIES
  Master of Arts in Education
  Master in Business Administration
  Master of Science in Criminology
  DAY & NIGHT CLASSES
- LIBERAL ARTS (A.B.)
- BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY
- BACHELOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
  Major in Filipino
  Major in English
- BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMERCE
  Major in Management
- SECRETARIAL w/ COMPUTER
  One Year Course
  Two-Year Course
- HIGH SCHOOL

For Particulars Please Call: 912-1286

Enrollment Going On

Summer Classes Begin :
APRIL 10, 2006

NO TUITION FEE INCREASE

Republic of the Philippines
Local Government Unit of Baliwag
Province of Bulacan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (ISWMS-MRF) FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALIWAG PROVINCE OF BULACAN (DESIGN AND BUILD SCHEME)

The Municipality of Baliwag, by virtue of the duly approved Sanggunian Resolution have authorized the Honorable Mayor Romeo M. Estrella to secure funding through Bond Flotation an amount for the payments under the contract. **INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (ISWMS-MRF) – DESIGN AND BUILD SCHEME** – ***in the amount of Php50.0 Million including the acquisition cost of the project site.***

ISMS-MRF Design Requirement:

The LGU will require the design/equipment importation/fabrication/installation and general plant building construction including road works and security fence of modular and Integrated Solid Waste Management System-Materials Recovery Facility (ISWMS-MRF). The proposed ISWMS-MRF shall demonstrate the capacity to treat, process and ultimately dispose – in an environment-friendly manner – the segregated or mixed domestic solid waste and special wastes from different sources within and outside of the municipality of Baliwag. The preferred technology must possess the ability to reclaim/convert 90% of incoming wastes into beneficial by-products such as biogas fuel, organic fertilizer, recyclable treated water, clean recyclable plastics and other materials, and to convert residual clean inerts into concrete blocks and construction filling materials. The objective is to prevent the necessity to operate and maintain solid waste landfill, therefore, prevent lechoate generation and leachate treatment and finally prevent odor and gas emissions. The preferred technology must possess prior technology verification from the DOST/ITDI, certifications from accredited/designated technical groups/verifiers, invention patents/utility models from IPO or similar technology verification groups.

The proposed technology must be compliant to the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9003, or, R.A. 6969: The Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Act, R.A. 8749. The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, The Clean Water Act, PD 1152: The Philippine Environmental Code, the Kyoto Protocol and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Further, the operating objective of the ISWMS-MRF that the Municipality of Baliwag requires, must show viability and profits of operation and the operator, therefore, the facility shall possess the flexibility to treat and process the estimated 40.0 metric tons of municipal solid waste that it generates per day in more or less 8 hours/day operation and to continue operating for another six to eight (6-8) hours in order to process off-town solid waste sources.

Further, the prospective bidder/Applicant shall submit a comprehensive Design/Plans and Specs of the required Integrated Solid Waste Management System-Materials Recovery Facility/technology that must demonstrate that its operation and treatment of waste do not create nuisance or negative impacts to the environment and to the community, such as leachate, odor, gas emissions, vermin and infestation. Together with this Design/Plans, the applicant shall submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is needed for the approval of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) of the proposed project.

1. The Municipality of Baliwag now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM-MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (DESIGN AND BUILD SCHEME). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **April 15, 2006**. Only those bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
2. Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility Documents, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI Form available at the address given below) from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **April 11, 2006**. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat in the same address, on or before **April 15, 2006**.
3. The Local Government of Baliwag reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without hereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
4. Waiver: The prospective bidder agrees and binds itself to abide to the final decision of the honorable members of the BAC and further waives any legal action or claims against the LGU of Baliwag pertaining to the project now and the future.

(Sgd.) REMIGIO VIOLA
Chairman BAC

(PDI–March 30, April 4 & 7, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Single Cell Stationary Batteries (Reference No.: PB060228-EL0025)

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board intends to apply the sum of *Php 7,200,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Stationary Single Cell Batteries.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Stationary Batteries.* Delivery of the GOODS is required *within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **March 30, 2006 to May 8, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).* The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 24, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of May 9, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	PhP 72,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	PhP 108,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	PhP 180,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	PhP 7,200,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **May 9, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - March 30 & April 6, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract

Name of Contract	Proposed Construction of Daanbantayan Roro Port
Location	Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu
Brief Description	Construction of Roll-On-Roll-Off Port
Approved Budget for the Contract	P14,999,598.45
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the in Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	March 30 - April 6, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 30 - April 6, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	March 30 - April 6, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	April 7, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	April 10, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	April 12, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 25, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundabe amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for, the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI - March 30 & April 6, 2006)

BUSINESS Friday

AyalaLand PREMIER

Does your day have room for this?

At One Serendra, you'll have room to lounge and laze about in perfect luxury and ease.
You'll have room for a whole lot of everything else as well. Because at One Serendra, you enjoy not just the 65% greenery offered every other Serendra owner, but appointments and living space unparalleled in the whole Bonifacio Global City. Ayala Land Premier's One Serendra has generously spaced units that give you and your family the kind of room normally only found in far-flung suburban developments. Do try to squeeze in a visit to us today. We've more than enough room to accommodate you.

ONE Serendra

Call 889-9557 to 60 • oneserendra@ayalaland.com.ph • www.oneserendra.com

Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City everyday from 9am to 8pm. **HLURB LTS Nos.:** 10412 and 10464

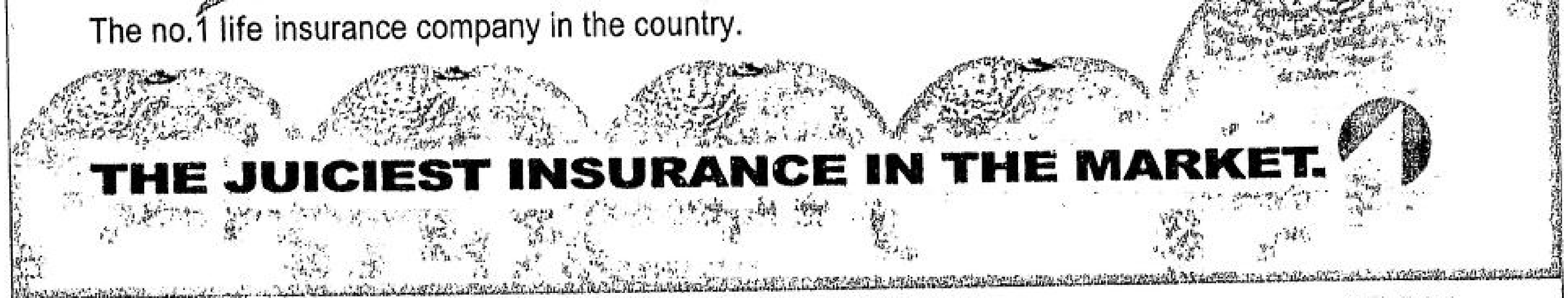
PHILAMLIFE LEADS AMONG LIFE INSURANCE AGENCIES:

	Gross Revenues In Millions	Total Assets In Millions
Philamlife	P21,649*	P88,900*
Company X	P15,072*	P50,756*
Company Y	P9,898*	P36,687*

**Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)*

PHILAM LIFE

The no.1 life insurance company in the country.



THE JUICIEST INSURANCE IN THE MARKET.

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services: Life and General Insurance • Property and Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management
Pre-Need Plans • Banking • Mutual Funds • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Process Outsourcing • Bancassurance • Financial Advisory Services

For more information, call (02) 528-5555.

AIG. A Member of American International Group, Inc.

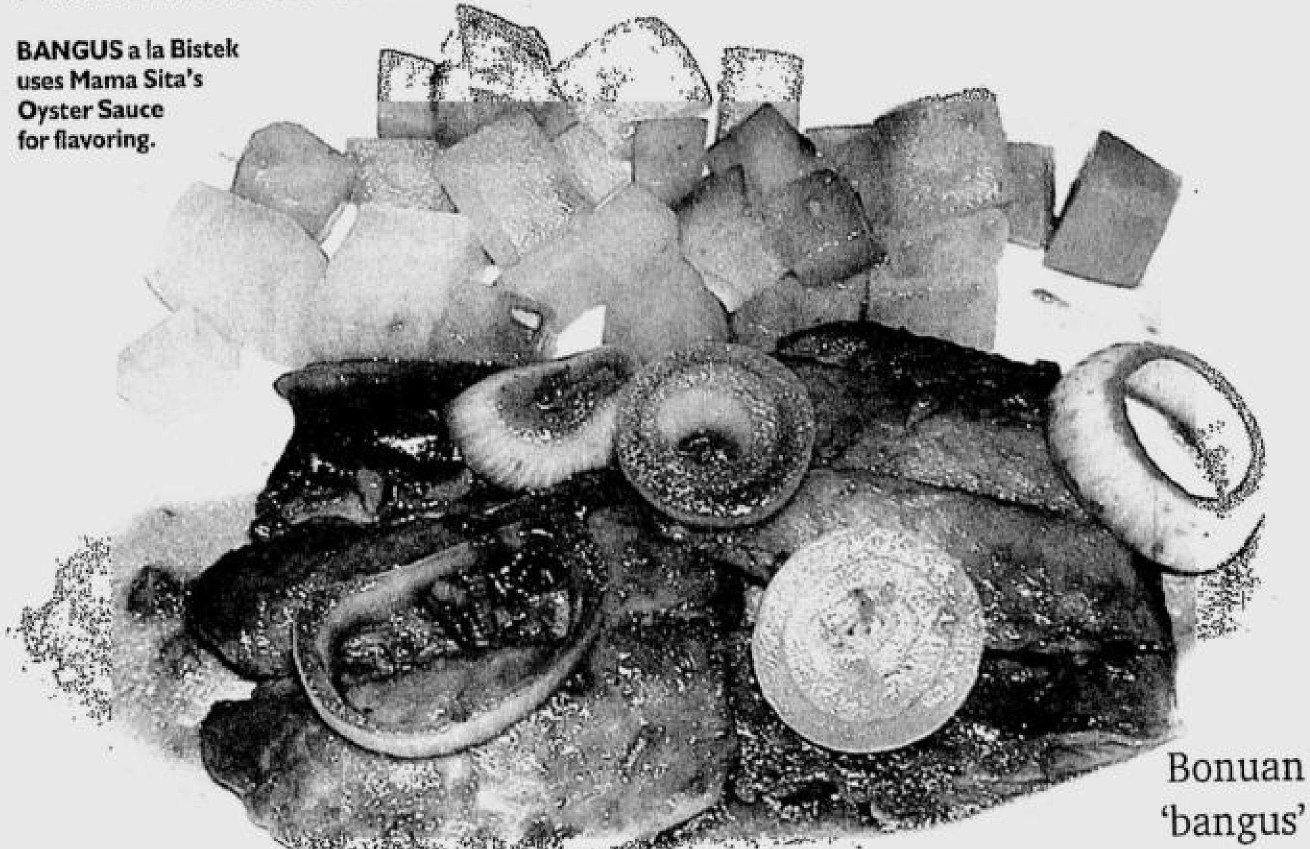
www.ephilam.com

FAMILY history through food /D1

LifeStyle
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS
bago ang April 17 deadline.
18 DAYS TO GO
Ang Ating Kontribusyon Sa Bukuyan

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



BANGUS a la Bistek uses Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce for flavoring.

EVEN Dagupeños are hard-put to explain why their *bangus* tastes different.

The true milkfish

Bonuan 'bangus' has its fat distributed much more extensively and almost evenly in its body, giving it its distinctive milky taste

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

TO DAGUPEÑOS, BONUAN IS both the district and its famous *bangus*. For almost everyone else, Bonuan is practically the gold standard for *bangus* quality.

Physically, the Bonuan *bangus* supposedly has features that distinguish it from other varieties—short arched belly; fine, shiny scales, short tail and small head. But it is the taste that sets the Bonuan *bangus*, raised in brackish water resulting from the convergence of the Lingayen Gulf and Salapingao and Dawel Rivers, apart from the rest.

In fact, the locals say, Bonuan is even distinguishable from that of neighboring Binmaley.

Like other *bangus* varieties, Bonuan boasts of a fat-laden belly, the most prized part of the fish. But unlike the others, Bonuan also has its fat distributed much more extensively and almost evenly in the rest of its body, according to Mama Sita's Ramon Reyes, an expert in agribusiness and fish culture.

This, Reyes says, gives Bonuan its distinctive milky taste making it truly worthy to be called milkfish.

Guilon-guilon or *bangus* harvest, done in the early morning or early evening, is a ritual that is both exciting and festive. It is also hard work. Men gather around a pen where the fish is ready for harvest (some four months after the juvenile *bangus* had been cultured). Divers plunge into 10-meter deep water to herd the fish into nets. Men on boats slowly draw the net close.

As the net closes in on them, the fish, their scales glinting like silver in the sun, jump up and down as they try to get out of the enclosure. The contents of the net are then hauled into a boat. A buyer usually is already waiting to receive newly harvested *bangus* and distribute it to retailers.

If Bonuan bought from the market manages to taste distinctive despite the trip from pen to markets that can take hours, if not days, one can imagine the flavor of freshly harvested fish.

With the fish going almost straight to a pot or pan, with only a boat ride in between, one savors all its juices, that inimitable taste of fresh catch, unadulterated by ice used to preserve fish during the long trip to the market.

That goes for other seafood items, too, that one can get from the pens and waters in the Bonuan area—oysters, crabs, shrimps.

Steamed, *kinilaw*, used in *sinigang*, everything just seems to be so much juicier, sweeter and tastier when fresh catch is the main ingredient.

Mixes and sauces

Of course, the right seasoning and condiments, like Sinigang sa Bayabas and Barbecue Marinade Mix, Sukang Tuba and Coconut Nectar Vinegar, enhance the memorable experience of eating something practically straight from the sea. With Mama Sita having put in bottles, jars, tetrapak packages all those flavoring essentials one can possibly need, whipping up something memorable even on a tiny spot of land in the middle of a body of water with only fish pens for neighbors, is a cinch.

A member of the Marigold Commodities Corp., Mama Sita's line includes mixes and sauces made from natural ingredients that help make cooking easier and faster. They can help turn a kitchen tyro into a pro, able to make *tapa* or *tocino*, whip up *kare-kare* or *palabok* in a jiffy, or simply to liven up ordinary vegetables with a dash of oyster sauce, which,

THE TRUE/ C2

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Summer Culinary Workshop plus...

Toss in a little fun and season with imagination to give kids and teens a summer they'll always remember! Enroll them at the Maya Kitchen's special summer cooking classes for kids and teens. They'll not only cook and bake their favorite treats, they'll also develop skills and confidence that will set them on the right track of life and even make new friends along the way. Limited slots only, so call the Maya Kitchen today!

Young People's Cook-In (YPCI): for teens, April 19-21 (W-F) 2-5p.m. Coverage: Basic cooking and baking techniques, actual preparation of quick & easy dishes from soup to dessert. Ham & Corn Chowder, Chicken Pot Pie, Bacon Pasta Salad w/ Caesar dressing, Fruit Compote, Mushroom Bruschetta, Beef Lettuce Rolls, Chicken Buffalo, Apple Crumble, Giant Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Peaches & Cream & Lemon Squares. P2,000.
Junior Culinary workshop: for boys and girls aged 7-11 April 26 & 28 (W&F) 2-5 p.m. Coverage: Safety in the Kitchen, kitchen math and conversion, table setting and napkin folding; Cooking Workshop: Power Sandwich, Easy Hamburger Pie, Cheesy Oven, French Fries, Fresh Fruit Slush, Chicken Noodle Doodle, Bake Fish & Chips, Fruity Mallow Jello & Chocolate Cookie Softies. P1,500.
Kiddie Party Cooking: for 4-6 years old May 6 (Sat.) 3-6 p.m. A course especially designed to introduce little tykes for the fun & pleasure of cooking. Activity: Decorate your own apron; Cooking Workshop: Purple cow shake; strawberry shortcakes; Edible Fish Bowl Free snacks & party give-away. P750.00.

CERTIFICATE COURSES FOR ADULTS (Limited enrollment, pre-registration required)
Basic Food Server Course: April 1 & 8 (Sat.) 3-6 p.m. Service Equipment & Supplies, Basic set-up, Napkin folding & Skirting, Table Service: Preparation, Types, Sequencing, Taking orders, Clearing & Phraseology P2,000.
Basic Culinary: April 4-7/25-28 T-F (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000.
Fundamentals of Bakery Production: April 18-21/May 2-5 T-F (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) Standard baking techniques applicable to baking application on the use of ready mixes, yeast bread, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes. P4,000 with free cookbook.

One Day Specials For All Ages
Kakanin: April 22 (Sat.) 2-5 p.m. Bibingka Royale, Cassava Bibingka, Pichi-pichi, Putong-puti, Bibingkang malagkit, Cuchinta, Maja nangka, Homemade salabat. P750.
Japanese Cooking: April 29 (Sat.) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso soup, Mixed Tempura, Kamameshi, Assorted Sushi & Sashimi and Sukiyaki by Japanese teacher. Free cookbook P1,000.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

SLIMMERS WORLD
LOSE UP TO 10 INCHES IN 60 MINUTES!!!
ARTURO GUERRERO lost 35 lbs on his programme.
JONABEL GAVIETA lost 34.5 lbs on her programme.

BODY METRICS
THE ULTIMATE CORE FAT BURNING PROGRAMME FOR MEN & WOMEN!
FREE DANCE AEROBICS*
5 FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS*
ONLY P45* PER DAY
NO JOINING FEES! CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
FIRST 25 SLOTS.
Per DTI-NCR PErmit #2787. Series of 2006.

GREAT FACE & SKIN, BODY WHITENING
Free from all Body hair & Blemishes!
SLIMMERS WORLD Face, Skin & Cosmetic CENTERS
GREAT CASH SAVINGS FOR MARCH!!!
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 5 FREE
ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS*. FIRST 25 SLOTS.
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%. Per DTI NCR Permit #2787. Series of 2006

DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL
For beautiful, smooth white skin.

HOT MASQUE
For firming and inch loss.

BODY FORMER
Lose 1,000 calories while you relax

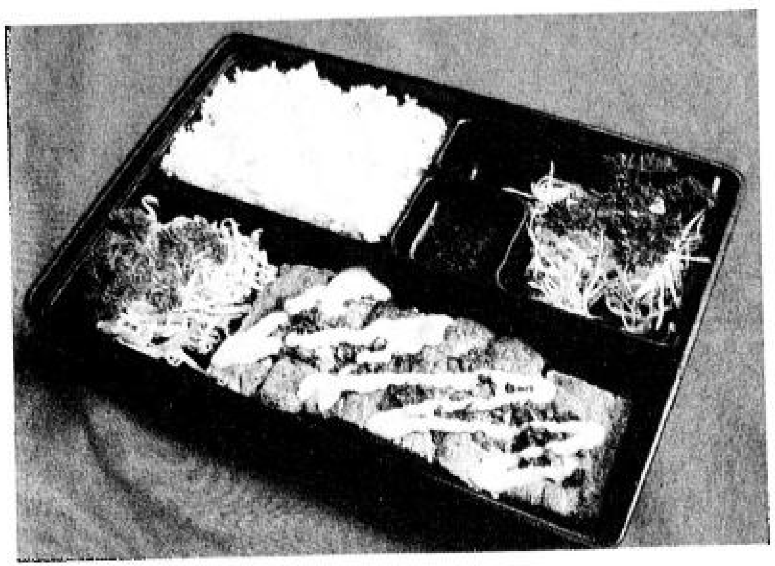
▪MESOTHERAPY ▪AQUAMID ▪NUTRACELL-FACE ▪BOTOX ▪RESTYLANE ▪WART REMOVAL ▪PERLANE ▪LASER ACNE TREATMENT ▪PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL ▪FACIAL ▪SKIN WHITENING

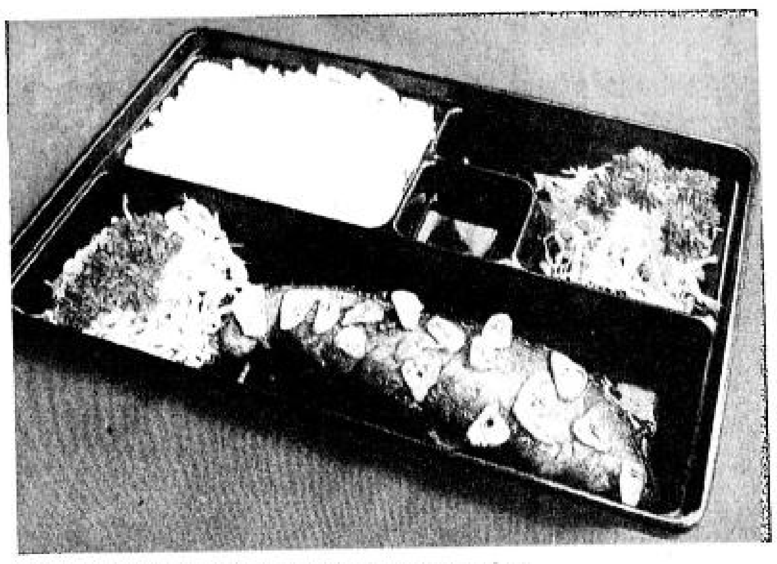
*SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE
8873533
CELLPHONE
091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Roda/Olive 365-7653
CEBU Juna/Anne 231-3254
GREENHILLS Eleanor/Juvy 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina/Ruby 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan/Val 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Lorie/Dino 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Anna 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314


THE BEST of East and West. Western Tuna Aioli


FAVORITE OBENTO. Gindara Steak a la Pobre

SWEET FUSION. Banana Tempura a la Mode

Makati's working crowd finds new lab

By Margaux Salcedo
Contributor
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

SAKE LAB IS THE LATEST addition to the growing number of neighborhood bars around the Legazpi and Salcedo areas.

Formerly Bento Box, this one-stop shop for reasonably priced good food and creative cocktails is the new yuppie hangout of choice.

But first, rewind to the Bento Box years. Owner Happy Ongpauco, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley, created a Japanese fast food restaurant with a menu composed of her favorite Japanese dishes using ingredients that would allow her to serve them at amazingly reasonable prices.

The result: a full Japanese meal for as low as P125. For P225, you can already get a slab of Porterhouse Steak Teppanyaki!

Create your own

Even better, unlike other restaurants that offer Japanese bento lunches, here you are given the option to "create" your own, i.e., you can choose your viand, the side dishes and the rice.

Ongpauco also created what she calls an Obento menu, Japanese-inspired dishes cooked in a Western manner or vice versa. An example is the Western Tuna Aioli, a slab of tuna grilled in a rich sauce of crushed garlic, egg yolks, lemon juice and olive oil but layered afterwards with wasabi mayonnaise for a hint of Japanese. This meal, which comes with rice and sidings, is only P180 and is delicious.

Another Obento favorite of mine is the Gindara Steak a la Pobre, also served with a doze of wasabi mayonnaise, priced at only P165.

For the men, I would recommend the Beef Ribs Teppanyaki, which is only P190. It's cooked Japanese style so the meat is definitely tender and it comes in the bento box. So, overall, it is very filling.

The Chicken Teriyaki, with generous proportions, is only P125. Tempura aficionados will be pleased to know that the prawns here fill up the flour wrapping and not the other way around.

Banana Tempura

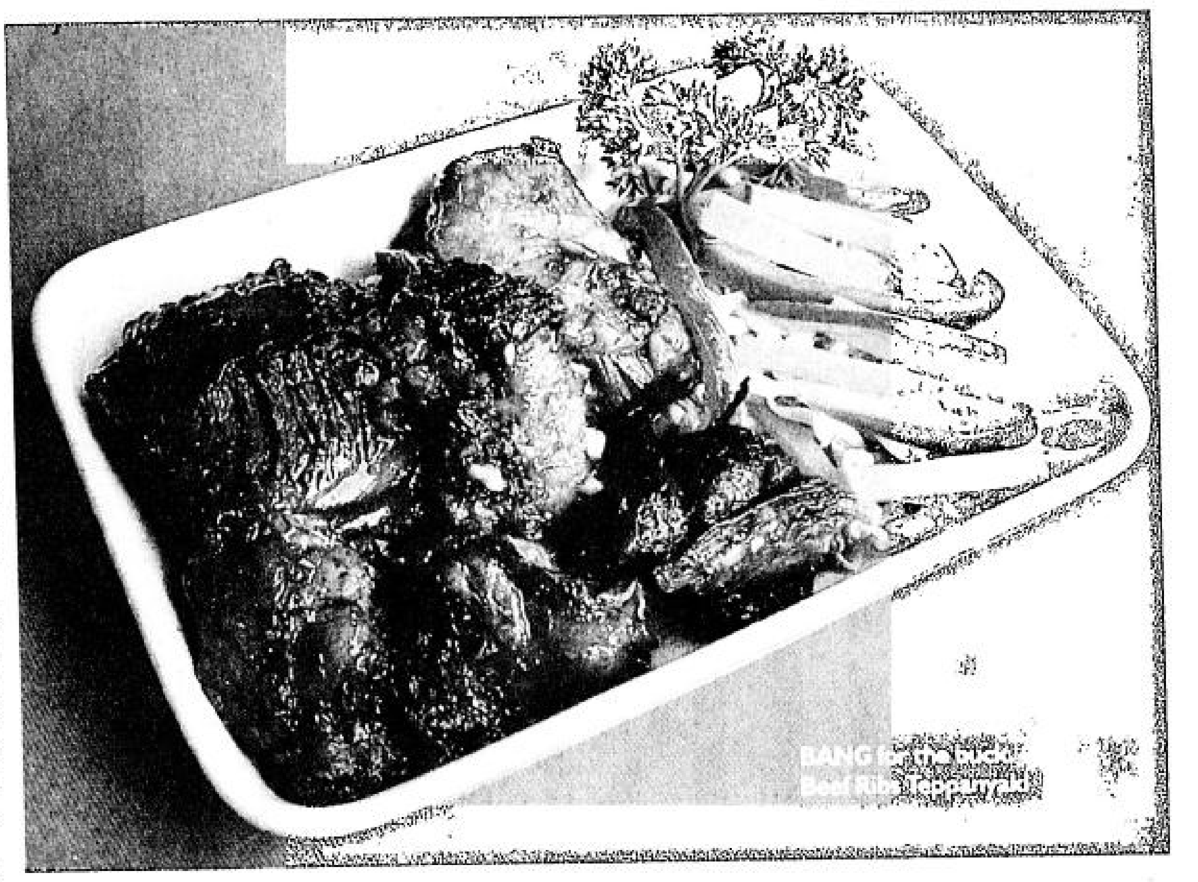
If you find yourself craving for something sweet, Sake Lab has a concoction that will have you smiling the rest of the day: it's called the Banana Tempura a la Mode. It is banana dipped in tempura batter, deep-fried, topped with vanilla ice cream then smothered in chocolate syrup. It's all your favorites combined and is as sweet as Sayuri's smile.

The end of 2005 marked the introduction of bento box to the nightlife. Seeing the potential of the midnight crowd on Palanca Street, Ongpauco partnered with veteran bar owner Paolo Abaya of Ebisu and Absinth fame, to create the ultimate neighborhood hangout: Sake Lab.

The name brought a lot of exciting ideas to my mind: geisha-like waitresses serving sake, Harajuku girls smoking out front, karaoke nights with the whole bar egging on a geeky, drunk art director to loosen up and sing "I Will Survive."

Unfortunately, the laid-back Palanca crowd would probably choke at this party scene so I found myself in the ordinary: the usual Makati crowd in jeans and a nice shirt, San Mig Light, Pacquio and the Chinese New Year for conversation, and hip-hop in the air—nothing Japanese!

To the owners' credit though, they do offer the Sake Bomb, which I thoroughly enjoyed and which I would have all my friends drink for the fun of it! It is a shot of sake in a huge glass of beer. But the fun is not as much in the drink as in the act of drinking it. As explained by partner Abaya, you're supposed to gulp it down while the rest of your friends cheered you on, shouting "Ike! Ike! Ike!", which was what he and partner Xavy Zialcita did.



It's a whole lot of fun—just never do it on an empty stomach or you might end up shouting another word altogether!

All in all, Sake Lab is the perfect hangout for Makati's working crowd. With a very reasonably priced lunch and dinner menu, great lounge music care of DJ Abaya, and bang for the buck drinks like the Sake Bomb, Sake Lab's the bomb.

The best way to end the week, really, is to go "ike" at Sake Lab!'

Sake Lab, formerly Bento Box, is on C. Palanca Street in Legazpi Village.

E-mail the author at margauxsalcedo@yahoo.com

The true milkfish

From page C1

incidentally, is made from oysters grown just a few meters away from *bangus* pens.

Boneless Chicken Barbecue

1 k boneless chicken (breasts and thighs)
2/3 c Mama Sita's Barbecue Marinade
Cooking oil for basting

1. Slice chicken meat into 3" x 2" portions.

2. In a bowl, marinate chicken pieces in Mama Sita's Barbecue Marinade.

3. Marinate for one hour in the refrigerator.

4. Skewer chicken pieces into barbecue sticks.

5. Grill skewered chicken two to three minutes on each side.

6. Brush occasionally with the marinade mixed with cooking oil.

7. Serve with Mama Sita's Java Sauce as a dip.

Makes five servings.

Dipping Sauce: Java Sauce

Variation: For seafood, marinate 15 minutes per kilo.

HEIDI Ozaeta of Marigold Commodities Corp. demonstrates how to cook Sinigang sa Bayabas using Mama Sita's instant mix.

MEN on bamboo platforms wait to haul harvested *bangus* during *guilon-guilon.*

Sinigang na Bangus Belly sa Bayabas

3 c water
1 small onion, quartered
1 small tomato, quartered
1 pouch Mama Sita's Sinigang sa Bayabas Mix
1.1 lbs *bangus* belly, boneless
2 pcs *siling haba* (long green pepper)
½ c *sitaw*, cut into two-inch lengths
1 c *kangkong*
Fish sauce (*patis*) to taste

1. In a saucepan, combine water, onion, tomatoes and Mama Sita's Sinigang sa Bayabas Mix.

2. Bring to a boil.

3. Add *bangus* belly, cut into serving pieces. Cook until almost done.

4. Add *sili* and *sitaw*. Continue cooking for five minutes then add *kangkong*. Turn off heat.

5. Add fish sauce to taste.

6. Serve hot.

Makes four servings.

Bangus a la Bistek

1 lb *bangus* belly
2 tbsp Mama Sita's Liquid Seasoning
1 tsp calamansi juice
2 tbsp cooking oil
¼ c *sayote*, cubed
¼ c carrots, cubed
¼ c onion rings
3 tbsp Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce

1. Marinate *bangus* belly in Mama Sita's Liquid Seasoning and calamansi juice for 15 minutes.

2. Blanch cubed *sayote* and carrots in boiling water.

3. Heat oil, fry marinated *bangus* belly till it changes color.

4. Set aside.

4. In the same pan, stir fry onion rings in little oil. Add Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce.

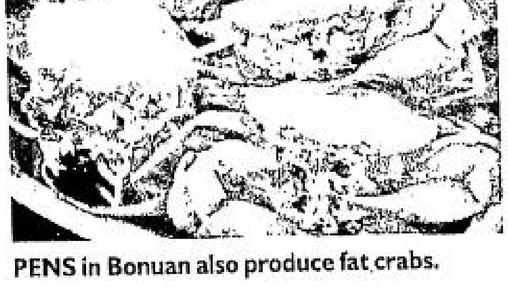
5. Add *bangus* belly and continue cooking until sauce thickens, more or less two minutes.

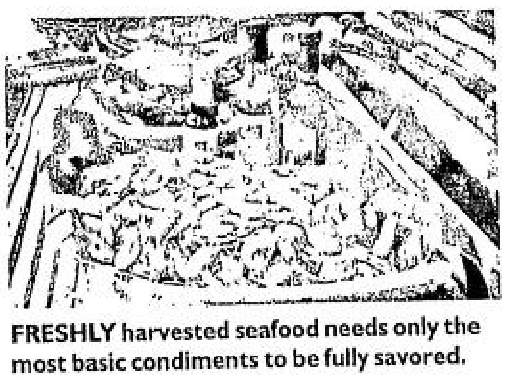
6. To serve, arrange *bangus* belly in serving platter. Top with onion rings and pour sauce over it. Garnish with blanched vegetables.

7. Serve hot.

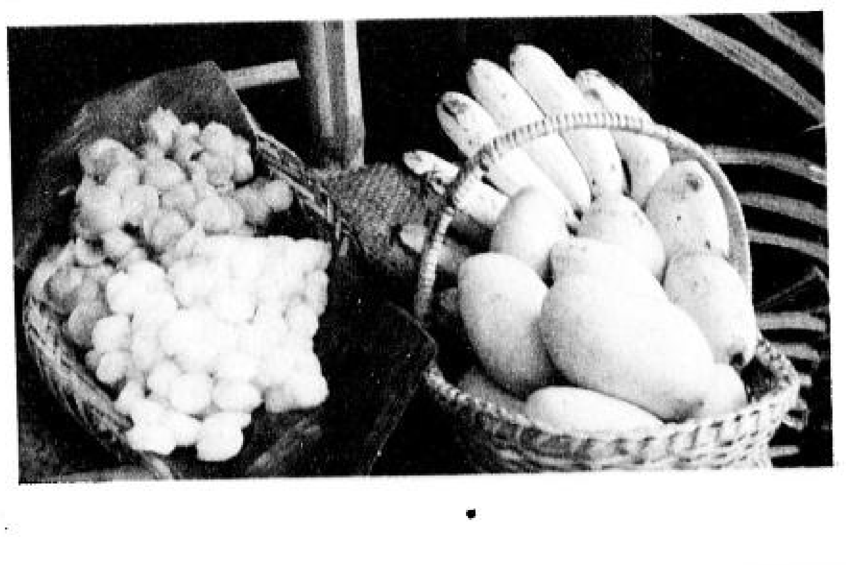
Makes four servings.

WITH the right sauces and condiments, like Mama Sita's, a simple fare of *inihaw na bangus*, steamed shrimps, broiled whole tomatoes and sliced onions is a feast.


PENS in Bonuan also produce fat crabs.


FRESHLY harvested seafood needs only the most basic condiments to be fully savored.

MAMA SITA's oyster sauces get their main ingredients from farms in Bonuan.


TWO of Pangasinan's other famous products—*puto* Calasiao and mangoes.

Cooking classes in a market

THE CENTER FOR CULINARY Arts Manila (CCA Manila) is offering Creative Recreational Short Courses (CRSC) at Farmers Market.

The satellite school at the Farmers Market will adopt the innovative approach "Shop, Cook and Learn." It is geared for adults of all ages with both basic and advance courses that will cover local and international recipes.

The four-hour classes will allow full hands-on participation by students. The program aims to enhance the students' knowledge and skills by adding a professional touch to what they already know.

Students will join chef instructors on a culinary tour at the Farmer's Wet Market and learn more about ingredients and various products. Instructors will also give them tips on purchasing.

The students will then cook what they bought back at the school, located at the second level of the market.

CCA Manila is at 287 Cravings Bldg., Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Call 4264840/41. E-mail marketing@cca-manila.com or visit www.cca-manila.com.

Learn the art of 'pancit'-making

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF CULINARY Arts will conduct the following classes:

March 31: Gourmet Pancit—The Art of Making Delicious Pancit—Pancit Canton with Scallops, Pancit Bihon Guisado with Chinese Pork Asado and Roasted Duck, Pancit Mami in Lechon Manok Broth, Lang-lang with Fresh Spring Vegetables, Gourmet Style Pancit Habhab

April 1: Chilean Sea Bass—Steamed with Hot Oil and Soy-flavored Sauce, Whole Bass in Salt Crust with Garlic Sauce, Rosemary-baked, Honey-glazed with Butter Sauce, Bass Kebabs, Sea Bass Curry, Whole Steamed Oriental Style

April 3: Gulay Pinoy Style—Delicious Laing, The Real Pakbet with Home-made Bagnet, Lumpiang Mani in Lettuce Leaves, Lumpiang Gulay, Fresh Lumpiang Ubod, Cynthia's Puki-Puki, Labong Ilokano Style with Bangus, Monggo Guisado Done Right; plus Guinisang Gulay Done to Perfection, a technique that works for almost all types of veggies.

April 5: Salad and Sandwich Bar (all new)—Caesar Hamburger, Chicken Caesar, Turkey with Hot Cheese Sauce, Chicken Avocado, Barbecued Pork, Tuna; salads with four dressings and condiments

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

Basics of food serving

MAYA KITCHEN is offering the Basic Course for Food Servers, 3-6 p.m., April 1 and 8.

The course will cover service equipment and supplies; basic setup; napkin folding and skirting; table service: preparation, types, sequencing, taking orders, clearing and phraseology.

Basic Culinary Course, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., April 4-7, will cover proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades; use of herbs and spices combinations; proper purchasing, storage; techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication; with actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafood, poultry and meats all the way to dessert, including garnishing for plate presentation. Participants get a free "Mix & Match" cookbook.

Visit Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Marks of quality—and safety

From page C4

Santos complained that the washing machine they bought had a dirty hose and smelled of fabric softener. He was also bothered that SM Appliance Center immediately replaced the unit when he complained.

It was explained to him that it was the policy of both SM and Whirlpool to replace units within seven days after purchase. SM Appliance Center stressed all units they sold were delivered directly from the supplier and they did not sell any used items. Chris Sioco, Exatech's AVP for sales and marketing, assured Santos that all products Whirlpool delivered to SM were brand new. As the company's washing machine factory was in Brazil, he said he would pass on Santos' comments to the production outfit.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)

HOLYWEEK & SUMMER TOURS
April 7-9 BOHOL TOUR via Cebu
April 13-16 HOLYWEEK Ilocos Tour
(14 miraculous & historical churches w/ Pagudpud beach)
April 14-16 BANAUE TOUR +Sagada
(See the world's Famous Rice Terraces & Sagada Cave)
April 21-23 BICOL TOUR w/ Donsol
(+WHALE WATCHING, Naga, Tiwi, Albay & Tabaco)
We arrange GROUP/FAMILY exclusive tour, LAKBAY ARAL; Tourist Bus Hire; PILGRIMAGE.
Apr29-01May: PALAWAN TOUR
(Underground River Cave, Sabang Beach, Honda Bay islands)
For inquiries call ENGRANDE TRAVEL
Buenavista Bldg. Quirino Avenue Paranaque City
TEL: 851-0361, 851-1549, Cel 0921-9796165

The Sexiest Dance Party this summer featuring DJs Jamie Richards & Andy Warburton with Anton Ramos of the Chill Out Project House Sessions
Classic Hits from 1999-2006
Hed Kandi Greatest Hits
March 31, 2006 // World Trade Center
BIGFISH
DoorCharge: Php600 // VIP Tables: call 726-2523 723-8673 // Info: www.bigfishmanila.com
Tickets available @ selected Tower Records, Music One & Folded & Hung store

CCS
Where the best Bakeshop Owners & Cake Decorators are trained from...
Baking & Cake Decorating School
#91-8th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
Telefon: 913-2527 Telefax: 912-1163
Email : junflorendo@yahoo.com

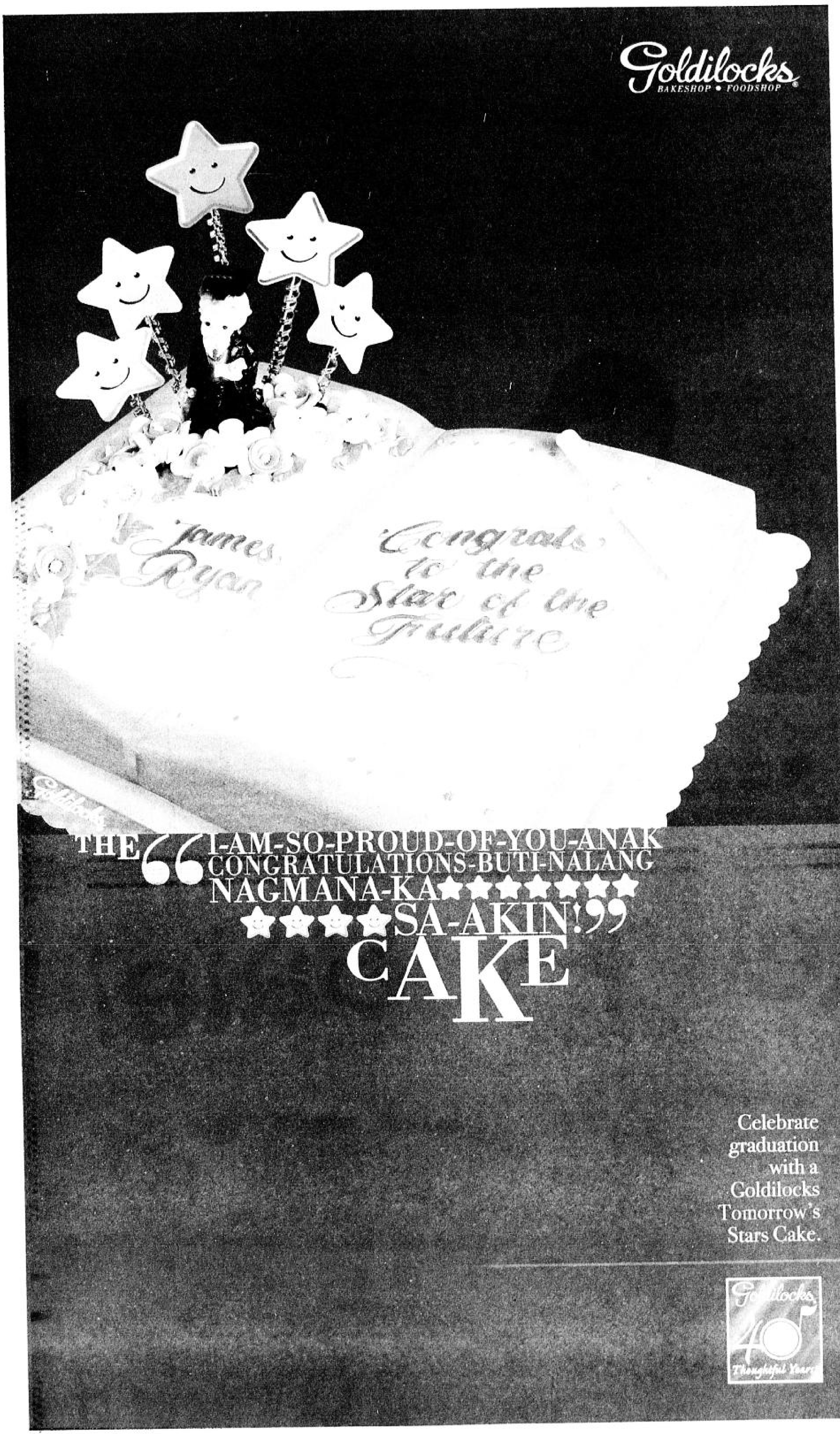
International Cake Exploration Societe
ICES
Avelina C. Florendo
1ST ASIAN "ICES" HALL OF FAME AWARDEE

1. APR. 3 - 7 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC CAKE DECORATING - (P11,000 for whole course)
P4,000 - APR. 3 - 4 - Learn 10 diff. kinds of icing flowers, figure piping. Bake & decorate your basket weave cake using boiled icing.
P2,750 - APR. 5 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers.
P4,500 - APR. 6 - 7 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers **NEXT SCHED: MAY 1 - 5**
2. APR. 8, 22 & 29 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING FOR DIABETIC
P3,000 - APR. 8 - Flaky (kaliskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie. **NEXT SCHED: MAY 6**
P3,000 - APR. 22 - Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread **NEXT SCHED: MAY 13**
P3,000 - APR. 29 - Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for Diabetics. **NEXT SCHED: MAY 20**
3. APR. 10 - 14 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - (P11,000)
New method on Gumpaste Flowers. Objects. Marzipan. Ribbon Insertion, Finest String Works, Lace Pieces, New Recipe of Fondant Chocolate Fondant. **NEXT SCHED: MAY 8 - 12**
4. APR. 28 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - (P5,000)
Using Lace Mats. New Rolling Pin W/ Designs. Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilling **NEXT SCHED: MAY 10**
5. APR. 17 - 21 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P13,000. For whole course)
P2,600 - APR. 17 - Cakes. plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,600 - APR. 18 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,850 - APR. 19 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & raisin bread.
P2,850 - APR. 20 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,600 - APR. 21 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons **NEXT SCHED: MAY 15 - 19**
6. APR. 17 - 21 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE. (P5,000)
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling; b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium; c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies, d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes. ***"COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS (P10,000) by appointment"*** **NEXT SCHED: MAY 15 - 19**
7. APR. 24 - 28 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P14,000. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,000 - APR. 24 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Decadence cake, Fan Torte cake, Fruit Torte cake.
P3,000 - APR. 25 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistachio cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.
P3,000 - APR. 26 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake.
P3,000 - APR. 27 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake.
P3,000 - APR. 28 - Merengues: Sansrival, Solothurn, Queens Torte, Braso de Mercedez, Pineapple Merengue Pie.
NEXT SCHED: MAY 22 - 26 / FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL
8. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

PEOTRACO
CONFECTIONER POWDERED SUGAR
"THE OFFICIAL CONFECTIONER SUGAR" USED BY MRS. FLORENDO

Offers Bed & Breakfast •
Delectable Filipino Food at Reasonable Prices •
Ideal for Open House, Retreat & Meetings •
Holy Family Chapel & Grotto w/ Garden •
Two Months Advanced reservation is a must •
On a first-come, first-served basis •
Small, Private, Weddings & Weekend Gatherings •
Inquire at CCS BakeShop •
AVELINA'S
#41 Judges St., Rd 3 Inday Subd., Antipolo City

Sale!
March 31 & April 2 • 10am - 10pm
Sale!
April 1 • 10am - 12mn
Home Market!
Covered Parking
Fiesta Market!
Technology Market!
Fountain Area
Gift Market!
LEVI'S ENGINEERED FREEDOM PARK
APRIL 1 & 2 AT THE ACTIVITY CENTER
Street Market!
Fashion Market!
Motor Market!
METRO
RIVERMAYA MARCH 31
TRUE FAITH APRIL 1
BAND PLAYS AT 7:30PM
MARKET! MARKET!
Ayala Malls
Find your way to the best deals.
The fun is in the finds
Market! Market! is in Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, call Customer Service Hotline at 886-7519.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-139, Series of 2006


Goldilocks
BAKESHOP • FOODSHOP
James Ryan
Congrats to the Star of the Future
Goldilocks
THE "I-AM-SO-PROUD-OF-YOU-ANAK CONGRATULATIONS-BUTI-NALANG NAGMANA-KA SA-AKIN!" CAKE
Celebrate graduation with a Goldilocks Tomorrow's Stars Cake.
Goldilocks
40
Thoughtful Years

Marks of quality—and safety

By Linda B. Bolido

FIRE PREVENTION SHOULD NOT BE JUST A month-long exercise. It should be a year-round concern.

Decisions consumers make will help save their lives and property, as well as those of other people.

THE CONSUMER

As Fire Prevention Month closes, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) issues this reminder so people can stay safe the whole year round. The department says, to avoid fire-related accidents due to poor-quality products, people should make sure they only buy appliances and other electrical products bearing the Philippine Standard (PS) or Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) mark.

Items bearing the PS mark (locally manufactured), or ICC mark (imported goods) have passed safety tests of the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS), says Trade Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare Zenaida Cuison Maglaya.

Among household products required to have the PS or ICC mark are liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, refrigerators, room air-conditioners, flat irons, rice cookers, television sets, electric fans, lighting products such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and self-ballasted lamps, ballasts, Christmas lights, circuit breakers, flexible cords, wires and cables, fuses, switches, fire extinguishers, safety matches, and lighters.

Maglaya says safe products are not necessarily the most expensive. "As long as the product passed the standards, [consumers] can opt for the brand that fits their budget."

But she warns, "Some electrical and lighting products may be sold at rock-bottom prices [but] quality [may have been sacrificed] just to meet the demand for low prices… In the end, consumers end up paying more for the damage to property… The few pesos saved are not worth the risk."

BPS director Jesus L. Motoomull says the bureau has a sustained campaign throughout the country to rid the market of substandard products. He also stresses the need to use the products properly and to observe safe practices.

In observance of Fire Prevention Month, the department has set up a mini-exhibit for the whole month of March at the lobby of the DTI office in Makati to showcase products that comply with safety and quality requirements and bear the PS and ICC marks. It also offers tips for choosing and properly using the products. Theme of this year's Fire Prevention Month is "*Pamayanan: Sama-sama Laban sa Sunog*."

Consumers can report or file a complaint against substandard products through the consumer hotline (7513330), i-reklamo website (www.i-reklamo.ph), e-mail (cwd-btrcp@dti.dti.gov.ph), TEXT DTI<space>-(REKLAMO) to 2920 for Globe and Smart subscribers. They can also visit DTI at 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Happy consumers

Meanwhile, DTI has made a reader (g_nuguid@hotmail.com) happy by acting on her complaint. She complained about poor after-sales service by a store selling fax machines. After DTI was apprised of the problem, a company technician showed up to teach her how to use the new features of the machines.

D. Z. Patdu, on the other hand, is grateful that Smart has addressed his problem. "I would like to inform you that Smart acted immediately on my concerns. Their representatives called me up and informed me about the corrective actions they would be implementing."

The complaints included arbitrary charges and misleading information on the WiFi promo.

Steff Li's wait for a new telephone is finally over. The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company installed her new phone March 18. She was getting frustrated by the long delay since she applied for a new phone in December.

SM Appliance Center and Exatech Inc., distributor of Whirlpool, apologized to customer Leo Santos for the inconvenience he might have suffered and assured him that all appliances they carried were brand new.

MARKS/C3

DIGITAL IXUS BE UNUSUALLY SWEET
Get it for someone special now.
Canon
Delighting You Always
FREE
MP3 PLAYER & 128MB SD CARD
DIGITAL IXUS i ZOOM
DIGITAL IXUS
PictBridge
POWERED BY DIGIC II
Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tel.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE FAMILY that cooks together... The working committee for the book poses at the entrance of the Hidalgo-Lim ancestral home. (Row 1 from left) Butchie Ayuyao, Rosemarie Guanio, Pia Castillo, Nicky Hidalgo, Jaime Laya, Marcia Sandoval; (Row 2nd) Ernie Lim, Mabi Sandoval, Vivian Madrigal, Laida Lim, Mary Locsin, Lita Hidalgo and Luisita Itchon ALLAN TUAZON

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Don't miss the country's most famous matinee idol as he promotes his album under Star Records.

Piolo Pascual

a world to discover

ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

A family history of dishes

HOW MANY FAMILIES CAN BOAST THAT their recipes have been recorded for posterity in a book? Or that the family's history through five generations has been included, written as a series of stories, in a style that succeeds in making those interesting even to an outsider?

"Potluck: Hidalgo Bonding" (Anvil Publishing, 2006) was launched at the ancestral home of the Hidalgo-Lims on Vito Cruz last month. It was a year after the book was planned, according to Jaime Laya.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

In his introduction, he described the project as a book "that encompasses family history, memories of happy times, recipes of favorite dishes (many brought to the potluck reunions), and the stories that go with them."

Generations of Hidalgos trace their roots to Don Luis A. Hidalgo and Doña Eulalia Lardizabal of Boac, Marinduque. There were 10 children from that union and the book is divided into chapters for each sibling (e.g House of Nicanor).

Annual event

You can imagine how big the clan is five generations after. What is admirable is that Hidalgo reunions have been a yearly occurrence. It was during the 2005 gathering that the book was first planned.

The working committee for the book comprised of representatives of the third to the fifth generation. Adelaida Lim wrote and edited the book with Laya. Her sister, Pia Lim Castillo, usually hosted the monthly meetings.

The committee gathered data, photographs, stories and recipes. E-mail helped a lot in the flow of communications, connecting the committee to the different families. This was especially helpful with the house of Ursula Villamin, all of whose members were born or raised in the United States. It was the only branch with no representative during the launch.

Laya is a clan member by affinity. He married Alice Sandoval, daughter of Concepcion Hidalgo. The fact that the book was finished in a year's time, quite fast if you consider how Laya has other work to do, indicated his interest in writing the stories of the Hidalgo family.

He found pleasure in nuggets of discovery such as learning that the real Lola Basyang of Severino Reyes' stories was the grandmother of Rufina Zamora who married Augusto Hidalgo.

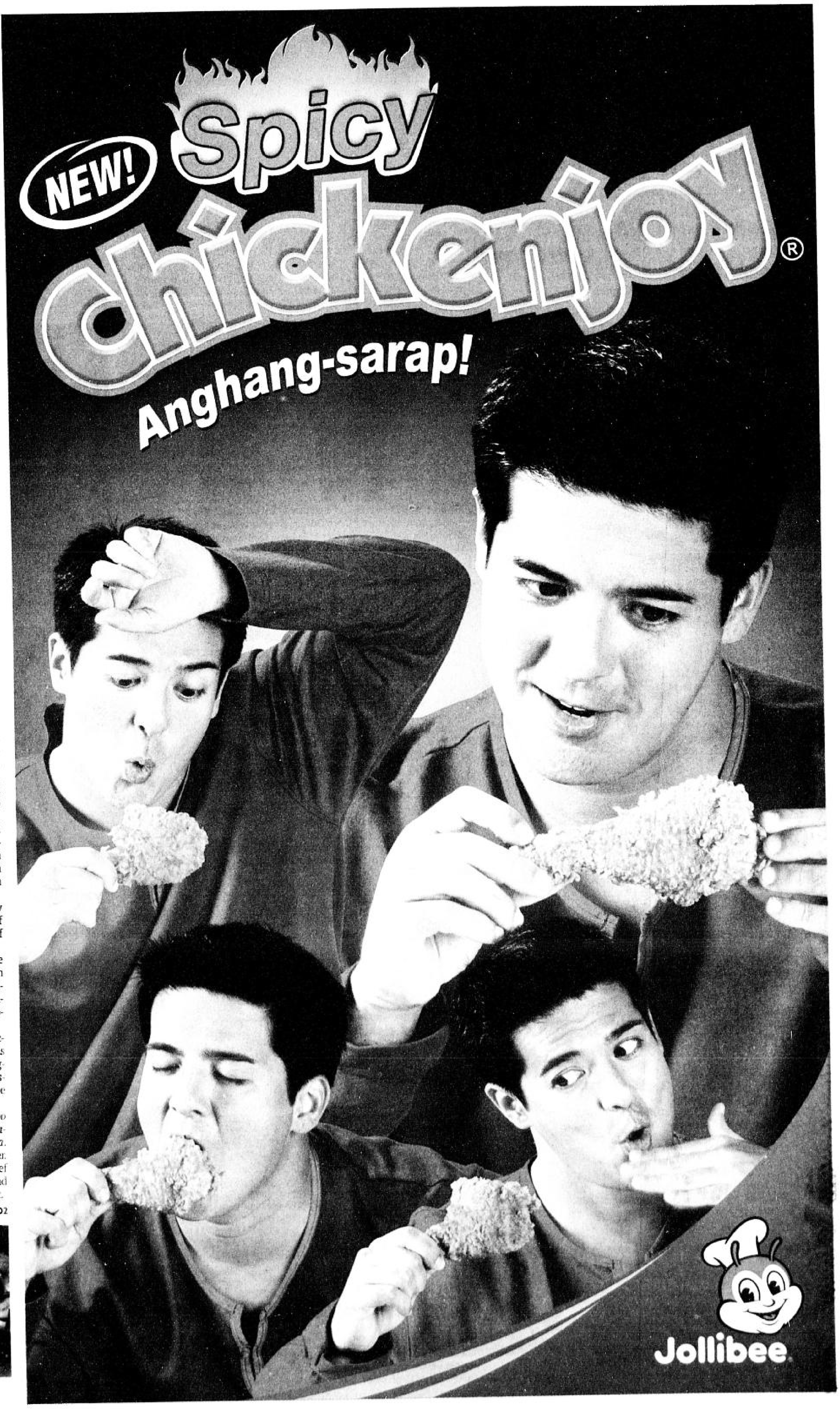
Heirloom recipes are enriched by the place where the family has settled and by the addition brought in by in-laws. The recipes include traditional Filipino cooking, traditional Spanish-influenced dishes, provincial delicacies and innovations from family chefs.

And how wonderful that each family acknowledges their cooks who made their meals worthwhile, including those who didn't willingly give the recipes. Of the 10 siblings, it's Augusto Hidalgo who stayed in the Marinduque hometown.

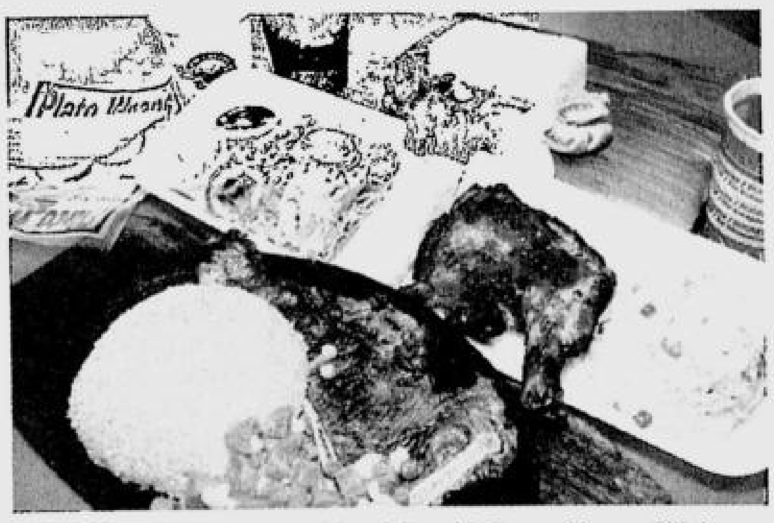
The dishes that belong to the place are *adobo sa gata*, chicken cooked in coconut milk and *nami*, a vine with hairy leaves, also cooked in *gata*. The *kalamay hati*, a coconut jam, is another. The hometown's version of the boiled beef shank and kneecap adds *camansi*, *petsay* and *singapur* (small *gabi* or taro in Boac) to the pot.

A FAMILY/ D2

PARCELS of fresh *lumpiang ubod* on soup spoons

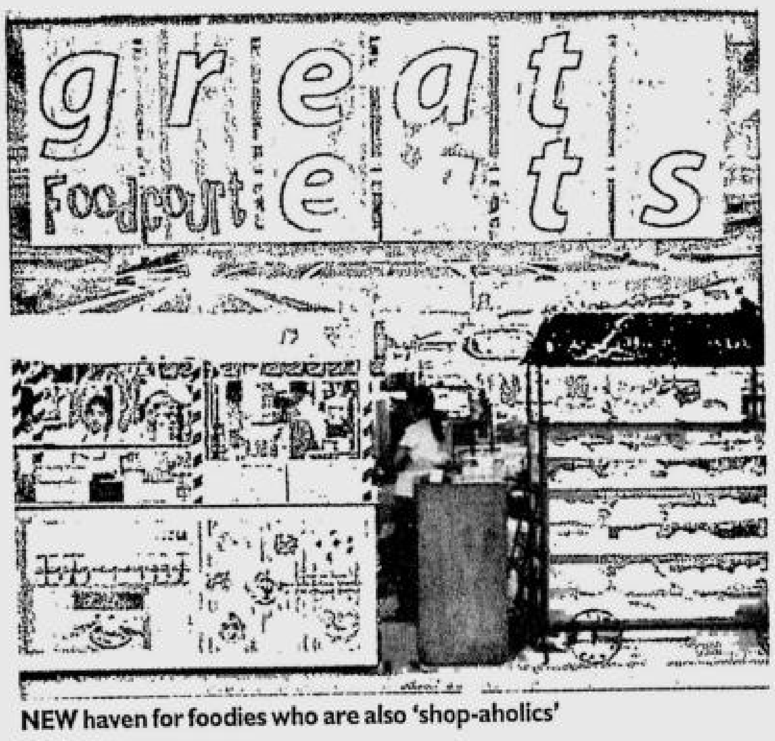

NEW!
Spicy Chickenjoy®
Anghang-sarap!
Jollibee

THE CHOICES are plentiful at Great Eats food court V-Mall: Inihaw Express' Sari-Sari Inihaw, Hen Lin's Siomai, Sizzling Seafoods' Lapu-Lapu Ala Pobre, Okuya's Bento Box and Fruit Magic's Squeeze Juice, among others.



V-MALL SHOPPERS will find Steak Break's Porter House, Chin's Express' Big Meal, Binalot's Tocino Rice, Bugnaw's Gulaman Juice, Plato Wraps' Tuna Panini and Coffee Experience's Cappuccino Jello and Choco Frapuccino at the food court.

Shopping mall is also a foodies' haven



NEW haven for foodies who are also 'shop-aholics'

V-MALL, FORMERLY VIRRA MALL, is now no longer just a shopping destination but foodies' haven, too.

Great Eats food court at the mall's 3rd level has nine fast-food outlets and an assortment of food carts and kiosks serving dim sum to drinks and everything in between.

Offering affordable dishes are Chin's Express, a Chinese restaurant; Okuya, which serves Japanese; Binalot, specializing in Filipino dishes; Sizzling Seafoods and Steakbreak, offering hot, sizzling items; and Inihaw Express with its grilled specialties.

Also at the food court are Jollibee, Goto King and Fatboy's Pizza/Pasta.

Great Eats has the first and only Pasteleria Ilustrado Pastry Cart, of the renowned Ilustrado Restaurant. Another novel food cart is Crazy Choco serving fondue-dipped goodies and ice cream with toppings.

Other establishments are Waffle Time, Potato Corner, Purefoods, Bugnaw, Hen Lin, Fruit Magic, Juancho Nachos, Jungle Freeze, Plato Wraps, Coffee Experience and Uncle Sonny's Shawarma.

The Bar offers the 5-Plus-1 San Mig Lite promo.

Great Eats food court is accessible from the Annapolis Carpark and through the mall entrances. It occupies a 1,400-sq m floor area and can comfortably sit 800 persons with space for staging events.

Great Eats food court is managed by Premiumlink Development Corp., which also runs and manages Food Island Foodcourt in Alabang Town Center; Food Island Foodcourt in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; Starmall; Ever Gotesco Manila Plaza and Ever Grand Plaza. It is open 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sunday-Thursday; and 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday. Call 7269479.

Grad party treats

PLANNING A SIMPLE and economical graduation party? Here are some recipe suggestions from the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center.

For more recipes, visit www.mygreatfood.com

Lumpiang Prito a la Purefoods Carne Norte

1 175-g can Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado
2 tbsp Magnolia Nutri-Oil
½ c finely chopped carrots
1 c *togue*
1/3 c chopped spring onions
12 pc small round *lumpia* wrappers
Magnolia Nutri-Oil for deep-frying

Heat oil in a wok. Stir-fry Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado, carrots and *togue*. Remove from heat and stir in spring onions. Transfer mixture to a strainer to remove excess liquid. Wrap a tablespoon of the mixture in *lumpia* wrapper and deep-fry in hot oil.

Makes 12 pieces.

Grilled Pork Ribs

1 k Monterey pork rib shoulder, cut each rib into 4-inch pieces
1 head garlic, peeled and crushed
½ c soy sauce
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
4 tbsp sugar

Basting Sauce

½ bar Dari Crème Classic, melted
1 tsp cayenne
½ tsp paprika
½ tsp chili powder

Marinate pork ribs in garlic, soy sauce, Worcestershire and sugar for at least 30 minutes. In a bowl, combine melted Dari Crème, cayenne, paprika and chili powder. Grill pork ribs and baste with Dari Crème mixture occasionally.

Makes six servings.

Fried Cheese

1 bar Magnolia Cheddar Cheese, cubed
½ c all-purpose flour
1 egg, lightly beaten
½ c Japanese bread crumbs
Magnolia Nutri Oil for frying

Coat cheese cubes in flour. Dip in egg and coat in breadcrumbs. Deep-fry in hot oil until golden brown.

LUMPIANG Prito a la Purefoods Carne Norte

A family history. . .

From page D1

Leyte recipes

Those were contributed by Lita Pedrosa Hidalgo whose Leyte recipes of other *gata* dishes, such as the *hinatukang manok*, were also included. She also wrote a charming essay about the coconut, the names given to the different stages of the nuts in Marinduque, the uses for each tree part, how to climb the tree and even the stages of *tuba*.

Patricia Aldaba Lim Yusah brought the Tausug cooking of her husband's family to the mix. There is the spice rub of *pamapa itum*, *pyanggang manuk* or black chicken, and the *kaunun*, rice cooked in *gata* and made yellow by turmeric, a sort of Java rice.

She said *kaunun* was given to a bride before a wedding.

The additional information in the recipes is as precious as the family history. In Tita Alice's Laya *leche flan*, for instance, Claudio Itchon Jamilla wrote how the *bain-marie* technique used in the cooking "reminds us of no less than the Virgin Mary, known for her gentle nature; hence, the temperature in a hot-water bath should never be boiling."

Felicia T. Rodriguez of the House of Nieves contributed Guyana recipes of her husband's family, including Cook-Up Rice that originally consisted of "spoiled rice and meat scraps given to the black slaves in the 1700s."

WWII survivor

At the launch, guests had a glimpse of the old house of Pilar Hidalgo and her husband, Gen. Vicente Lim, a hero of World War II. It's the only surviving one on that Vito Cruz row. Neighboring houses were destroyed by bombs.

The table was set the way it must have been done during the old days with a crocheted tablecloth. We were asked to look at the ceiling and count how many nudes were hiding behind the clouds. Those were done by scenery painters of Parleton Films where Pilar Hidalgo Lim was an executive producer.

After the speeches and acknowledgment of the work done by specific family members, everyone was invited to partake of a sampling of the recipes. It was fitting that the cooking was done by family members as well, particularly Mia Lim Ayuyao and her husband Ariel Manuel, who both own and cook for Lolo Dad's in Manila.

There were so many friends and members of the Hidalgo clan at the launch that as soon as the food was brought to the table, the items disappeared. Most were presented as finger food, placed on top of or enclosed in bread or resting on Chinese soup spoons.

Through "Potluck: Hidalgo Bonding," we get a glimpse of a family through generations. It is food that serves as the bond in their reunions and now in this book.

E-mail me at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

MKST family: Knorr brand executive Vince Camua, Knorr management trainee Marco Danga, Knorr assistant brand manager Bajeng Santos, MKST funny girl Eugene Domingo and MKST's first Ultimate Cooking Diva Fatima Canda

FLORABEL Co serves as a judge for the day's cooking contest.

TEAM 3 preparing Cheesy Menudo

Cooking show's second season launched

KNORR MAKUHA KA SA Tikim" Season 2 was launched in style at Patio Victoria, transformed into a modern cooking diva's domain.

The Intramuros restaurant was decorated to look like the venue for the popular weekly cooking competition on television.

The buffet was prepared by chef Florabel Co. An audio-visual presentation featured the 27 contestants participating in the show's second season, aired 11 a.m., Saturday, on ABS-CBN.

Media guests were divided into three groups representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and asked to prepare a meat dish identified with a particular island group.

Also at the launch were show hosts Eula Valdes and Cherry Pie Picache, and comedienne Eugene Domingo.

Makuha ka sa Tikim!
Season 2
Knorr

WINNING media team during the launch at Patio Victoria of "Makuha Ka Sa Tikim" Season 2, aired 11 a.m., Saturday, on ABS-CBN

DINING OUT

LUK YUEN presents "2 Cool for Summer" sweet and cool *halo-halo* in two sizes—big (P75/order) and petite (P50/order)—topped with refreshingly delicious Big Scoop ice cream. Luk Yuen Noodle House has branches in Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall basement Bldg. B, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati, Cash & Carry near Buendia , Makati, Paseo de Magallanes, Makati, and Makati Supermart, and Alabang Town Center.

HOLIDAY INN GALLERIA'S Raphael Café presents international buffet highlighting Greek dishes until May 14. The Café Greek lunch buffet starts at 12 noon-2:30 p.m. (for P800) with a pre-summer "two-for-the-price-of-one" treat. Call 6337111 loc. 7416.

HOLIDAY INN Galleria Manila offers Barbecue Buffet by the Pool available at P550+ per person inclusive of one round of soda or ice-cold beer. Call 6337111 loc. 7416/7440.

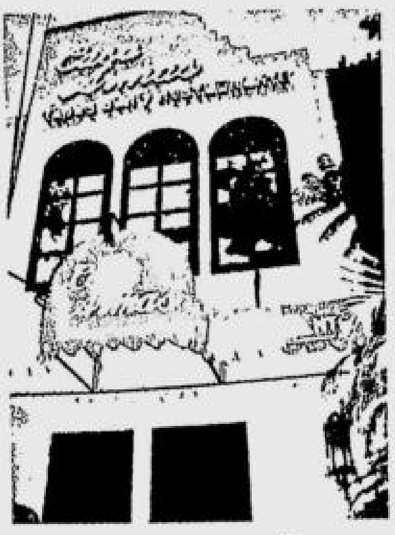
INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA offers a refreshing menu of ice cream sundaes and fruit shakes, available until May 31. The menu includes Fruit n' Ice, Tropic Desire, Mango Tango, Triple Treat, Watermelon Freeze and Mango Shake, Shake, Shake. Meanwhile, Prince Albert Rotisserie presents a dinner menu which includes Oven-roasted Chicken Breast filled with Crab Meat set on Mushroom Risotto with Lobster Foam, Pan-fried US Beef Tenderloin and grilled Lobster Medallion with Red Wine Butter Sauce and William Potato, among others, from April 4-18. Call 8159711.

RICHMONDE GRILL offers seafood dishes in an all-day dining a la carte menu, April 1-15. It includes Grilled Norwegian Salmon Steak served on mushroom ragout or the Steamed Tilapia Fillet on a bed of oriental vegetables with rice and oyster leek sauce. There's the Seafood Kebabs in Ginger-Soy Dressing, the Calamari and Vegetable Tempura and the Grilled Pink Tuna in Avocado Salsa. Call 6898419/8442.

LOBSTER Medallion set on Grilled Eggplant and Zucchini served with Pimento Crab and Foam

HYATT HOTEL and Casino's Li Li Restaurant offers a variety of King Crab specialties by master chef Choi. There's the Black Peppered Crab, Ginger and Shau Shin Wine-Baked King Crab and Egg and Fa Du Wine Steamed Crab. The offer is until March 31. Call 2451234.

TIA MARIA'S offers lovers of Tex Mex food two choices of Quesadilla this month. You, can have a combination of cheese and jalapeños between two flour tortillas served with salsa, or two flour tortillas filled with melted cheese, jalapeños and chili con carne, served with salsa.



FAÇADE and entrance of Casa Armas Tapas Bar Y Restaurante along Jupiter St. in Makati City.

CASA ARMAS offers special packages this March until the first week of April as a tribute to graduates. Different packages are priced at P3,995+ (5-8 people), P5,995+ (8-12 people) and P9,995+ (12-15 people), all featuring Casa Armas top-sellers. Casa Armas Graduation Package Special includes all-time favorite tapas, e.g. Tabla Casa Armas Especial (mixed Spanish cold cuts); Chorizo Frito (fried Spanish sausage) and Gambas al Ajillo (garlic shrimps).

Other house specialties are Paella Valenciana (saffron rice with mixed seafoods, chicken pork and vegetables); Parilladas de Pescado (grilled assorted fish); Lengua Estofada (ox tongue stew). Desserts include Flan al Caramelo (caramel custard) and Canonigo (soft meringue cake). Each package comes with a complimentary bottle of Sta. Carolina red wine, plus a chance to win a Nokia 6680 cell phone.

The promo is available at the Greenbelt, Podium and Jupiter branches. For the package with Cochinillo (Roast Suckling Pig) and Asado de Pollo Ensu Jugo (Roast Chicken), reservations should be made five hours in advance.

The promo is made possible with the collaboration of BDO Credit Cards and Globe Telecom. Call Casa Armas at G/F, The Podium (6873663), Jupiter (8973542), and 3/F, Greenbelt 3 (7574996).

Chronicler of Philippine food history

Milagros Enriquez was honored during the Philippine Centennial as one of 100 women who made lasting contributions in arts and culture

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

THERE'S A SERENE AURA that comes with age and a life well-lived. Indeed, a full life has its just reward!

Milagros Enriquez, 83, a war veteran and cancer survivor, defied the odds gracefully and beautifully.

Her gentle voice, calm demeanor and tales to tell seem too much for someone like me. Beside her I seem so young, so unknowledgeable. Truly, one can never know it all... Time and experience remain, in fact, life's best teachers.

Over coffee and old-fashioned cakes at the Enriquez ancestral home in Bulacan, she spoke of the good old days. All over the place are mementos of bygone years. Carnival glass, antique furniture, lamps from the turn of the century, even a Katipunan battle flag...

It would have been most appropriate to have gone there garbed in a Maria Clara. I was walking into a dream, the idea of guerillas tucked somewhere in the house would not have been farfetched.

Born Milagros Santiago, the daughter of Malolos municipal doctor Cristobal Santiago and Club de Mujeres president (1929-30) Enriqueta Cervantes, it was her mother's involvement in the club that sparked her interest in food that eventually led to the historical chronicling of Philippine cuisine.

Perhaps, the fact that she married Jacinto Enriquez, son of Vicente Enriquez, a Katipunero, aide de camp to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and one of the founders of the Katipunan in Bulacan, played a major role.

Ka Mila's achievements are many. She was our representative to the Smithsonian in Washington during the Folk Life Festival where she spoke of our food heritage. She was recognized during the Philippine Centennial as one of the 100 women who made lasting contributions in the field of arts and culture.

Enriquez also authored the book "Kasaysayan ng Kaluto ng Bayan," which, unfortunately, is now out of print.

Her researches include: Food of the Soldiers "Alay sa Kawal," from Rajah Sulayman, who was killed in the battle of Bangkusay to Boodle Fight Food in Mindanao; The Evolution of the Christmas Menu—Ethnic to Present; Ang Mga Paboritong Pagkain ng Mga Bayani; Favorite Food of the Presidents and The Malolos Inauguration of Philippine Independence Menu.

Ka Mila, may you continue to be blessed with many more years, so that you may see the fulfillment of your dream that "Kasaysayan ng Kaluto ng Bayan" be reprinted! That much you owe us!

For your numerous contributions to Philippine cuisine, we will never be able to thank you enough. Forever, our gratitude!

Holy Week menu

Can you please help me come up with a Filipino menu that I can serve my family who comes over for Holy Week?

JULIAN M., ZAMBALES

Sure and with an interesting twist...

Pagkaing Kuaresma ni Ka Mila Enriquez:

Puto Karamba

1 *tasa ng kalabasa, ginayat ng pahaba at maliliit; maliliit na hipon; pinipig*
1 *sibuyas, ginayat*
1 *tasang harina at* cornstarch
½ *tasang tubig*
asing pampalasa

Ihulma na parang pugad sa platito ang pinaghalu-halong kalabasa, hipon, sibuyas at pinipig. Buhusan ng kaunting pinaghalong harina at cornstarch *sa tubig ang bawat pugad. Prituhin nang lubog sa mantika. Ihain na kasama ang sawsawang suka, paminta at asin.*

* *Ang kalutong ito ay kalutong kumbento ng* Bulakan. *Naging kaugalian ang pag-aalay sa prayle ng kanilang inaning bunga na buhat sa kanilang halamanan bilang pasalamat sa mga biyaya ng Diyos.*

Bringheng Bulakan

3 *tasang malagkit*
4 *tasang gata*
1 *tasang hipong may balat*
1 *alimango/alimasag, hinati-hati*
2 *siling pasilyas na pula at berde, hiniwa ng pahaba*
3 *ulo ng bawang, dinikdik*
2 *sibuyas, ginayat*
2 *nilagang itlog, nahiwa*
luyang dilaw
asin at paminta

Isaing ang malagkit sa gata, katas ng luyang dilaw, asin at paminta. Igisa ang alimango, hipon at pusit hanggang maluto ito. Ihalo sa sinaing ang lahat ng sangkap na ginisa.

Balutin sa dahon ng saging at pasingawan ng ilang minuto. Lagyan ng itlog bago ihain.

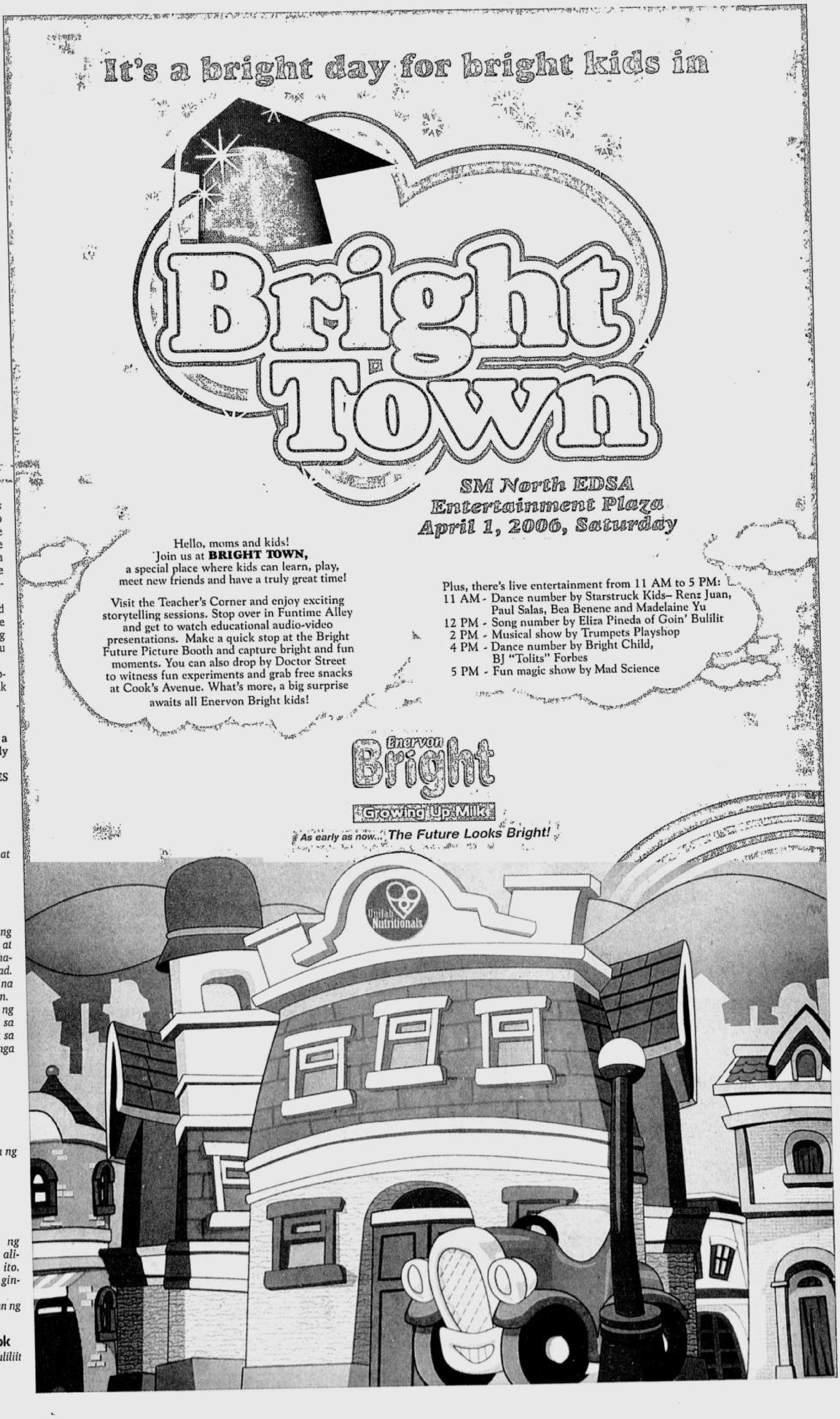
Alay sa mga Mantitinapang Palabok

12 *pan de sal para sa sarsa, hiniwang maliliit*
½ *tasang* fish cracker
½ kg *tinapa, hinimay at ginisa*
2 *tokwa, bahagyang naprito, hiniwang maliliit*
3 *kutsarang binabad sa tubig na asuete*
sabaw ng hipon o tubig
½ kg *bihon, nailuglog sa mainit na tubig*
2 *kutsarang dinikdik na mani*
1 *kutsarang alamang na tuyo, malalaking alamang na pinatuyo,* optional
2 *nilagang itlog, hiniwa*
¼ *tasang kintsay*
1/3 *tasang sibuyas*
5 *pirasong petsay* Tagalog
patis
kalamansi, kamias, hiniwang maliliit

Igisa ang bawang at sibuyas, atsuete at pan de sal. Ibuhos ang sabaw, palaputin. Ilagay ang paminta at kintsay. Igisa ng isa-isa ang tinapa, gulay at tokwa at itabi. Buhusan ng kaunting mantika at patakan ng patis ang bihon, ilagay ito sa bandeha at budburan ng tinapa at alamang na binusa.

Buhusan ng sarsang pan de sal. Ilagay ang tinapa, gulay at tokwa. Budburan ng mani at fish crackers. *Lagyan ng itlog na nilaga. Tabihan ng kalamansi at patis. Maari din ang kamias na hiniwang maliliit.*

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



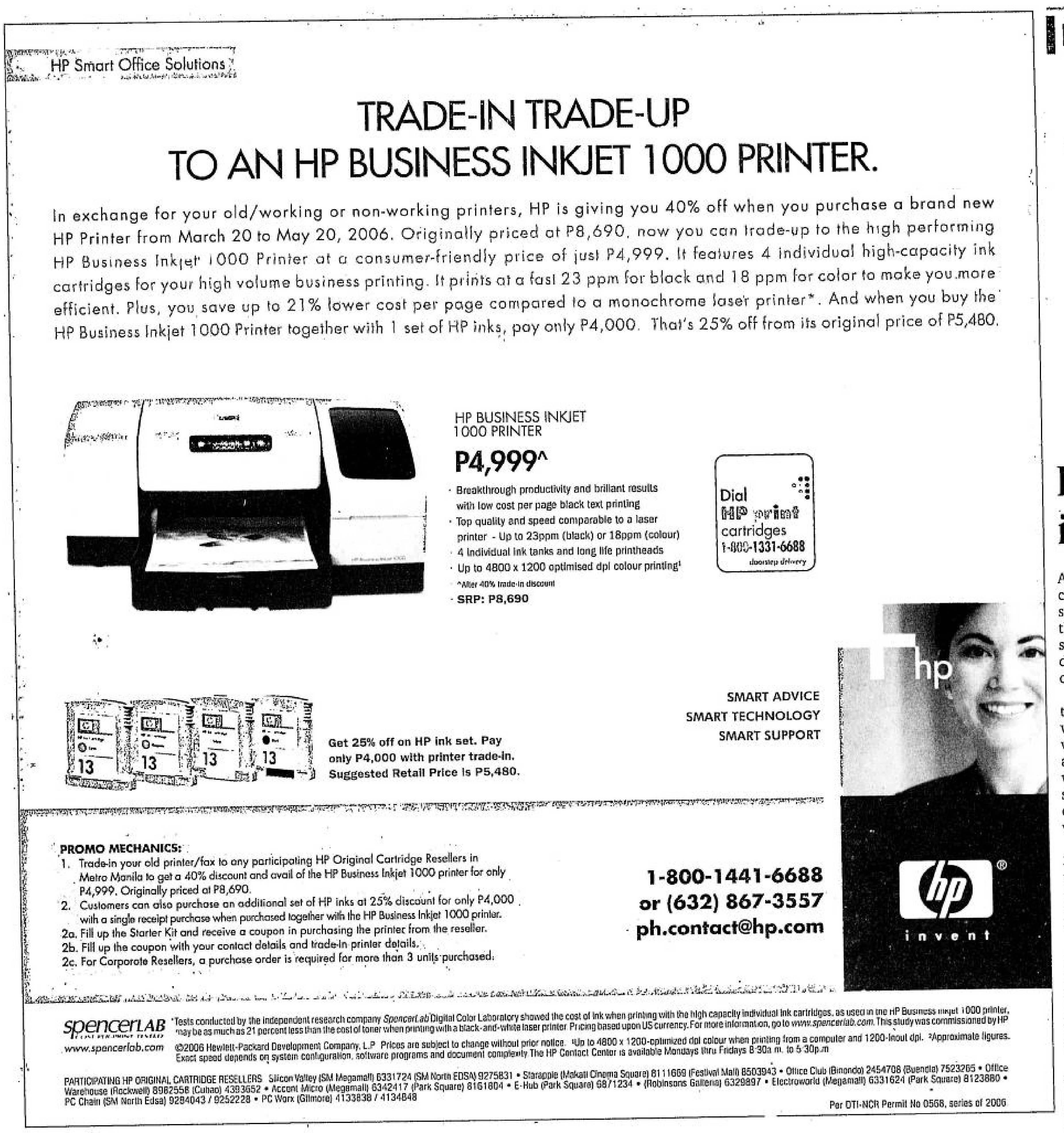
It's a bright day for bright kids in
Bright Town
SM North EDSA
Entertainment Plaza
April 1, 2006, Saturday

Hello, moms and kids!
Join us at **BRIGHT TOWN,**
a special place where kids can learn, play, meet new friends and have a truly great time!

Visit the Teacher's Corner and enjoy exciting storytelling sessions. Stop over in Funtime Alley and get to watch educational audio-video presentations. Make a quick stop at the Bright Future Picture Booth and capture bright and fun moments. You can also drop by Doctor Street to witness fun experiments and grab free snacks at Cook's Avenue. What's more, a big surprise awaits all Enervon Bright kids!

Plus, there's live entertainment from 11 AM to 5 PM:
11 AM - Dance number by Starstruck Kids– Renz Juan, Paul Salas, Bea Benene and Madelaine Yu
12 PM - Song number by Eliza Pineda of Goin' Bulilit
2 PM - Musical show by Trumpets Playshop
4 PM - Dance number by Bright Child, BJ "Tolits" Forbes
5 PM - Fun magic show by Mad Science

Enervon Bright
Growing Up Milk
As early as now... The Future Looks Bright!



HP Smart Office Solutions

TRADE-IN TRADE-UP
TO AN HP BUSINESS INKJET 1000 PRINTER.

In exchange for your old/working or non-working printers, HP is giving you 40% off when you purchase a brand new HP Printer from March 20 to May 20, 2006. Originally priced at P8,690. now you can trade-up to the high performing HP Business Inkjet 1000 Printer at a consumer-friendly price of just P4,999. It features 4 individual high-capacity ink cartridges for your high volume business printing. It prints at a fast 23 ppm for black and 18 ppm for color to make you more efficient. Plus, you save up to 21% lower cost per page compared to a monochrome laser printer*. And when you buy the HP Business Inkjet 1000 Printer together with 1 set of HP inks, pay only P4,000. That's 25% off from its original price of P5,480.

HP BUSINESS INKJET
1000 PRINTER

P4,999^

- Breakthrough productivity and brillant results with low cost per page black text printing
- Top quality and speed comparable to a laser printer - Up to 23ppm (black) or 18ppm (colour)
- 4 individual ink tanks and long life printheads
- Up to 4800 x 1200 optimised dpi colour printing¹

^After 40% trade-in discount

- **SRP: P8,690**

Dial
HP print
cartridges
1-800-1331-6688
doorstep delivery

Get 25% off on HP ink set. Pay only P4,000 with printer trade-in. Suggested Retail Price is P5,480.

SMART ADVICE
SMART TECHNOLOGY
SMART SUPPORT

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Trade-in your old printer/fax to any participating HP Original Cartridge Resellers in Metro Manila to get a 40% discount and avail of the HP Business Inkjet 1000 printer for only P4,999. Originally priced at P8,690.
2. Customers can also purchase an additional set of HP inks at 25% discount for only P4,000 with a single receipt purchase when purchased together with the HP Business Inkjet 1000 printer.

2a. Fill up the Starter Kit and receive a coupon in purchasing the printer from the reseller.
2b. Fill up the coupon with your contact details and trade-in printer details.
2c. For Corporate Resellers, a purchase order is required for more than 3 units purchased.

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com

hp invent

spencerLAB
www.spencerlab.com

*Tests conducted by the independent research company SpencerLab Digital Color Laboratory showed the cost of ink when printing with the high capacity individual ink cartridges, as used in the HP Business Inkjet 1000 printer, may be as much as 21 percent less than the cost of toner when printing with a black-and-white laser printer. Pricing based upon US currency. For more information, go to www.spencerlab.com. This study was commissioned by HP ©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. ¹Up to 4800 x 1200-optimized dpi colour when printing from a computer and 1200-input dpi. ²Approximate figures. Exact speed depends on system configuration, software programs and document complexity. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30a.m. to 5:30p.m.

PARTICIPATING HP ORIGINAL CARTRIDGE RESELLERS Silicon Valley (SM Megamall) 6331724 (SM North EDSA) 9275831 • Starapple (Makati Cinema Square) 8111669 (Festival Mall) 8503943 • Office Club (Binondo) 2454708 (Buendia) 7523265 • Office Warehouse (Rockwell) 8982558 (Cubao) 4393652 • Accent Micro (Megamall) 6342417 (Park Square) 8161804 • E-Hub (Park Square) 6871234 • (Robinsons Galleria) 6329897 • Electroworld (Megamall) 6331624 (Park Square) 8123880 • PC Chain (SM North Edsa) 9284043 / 9252228 • PC Worx (Gilmore) 4133838 / 4134848

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0568, series of 2006

Ice cream takes it lite and cool

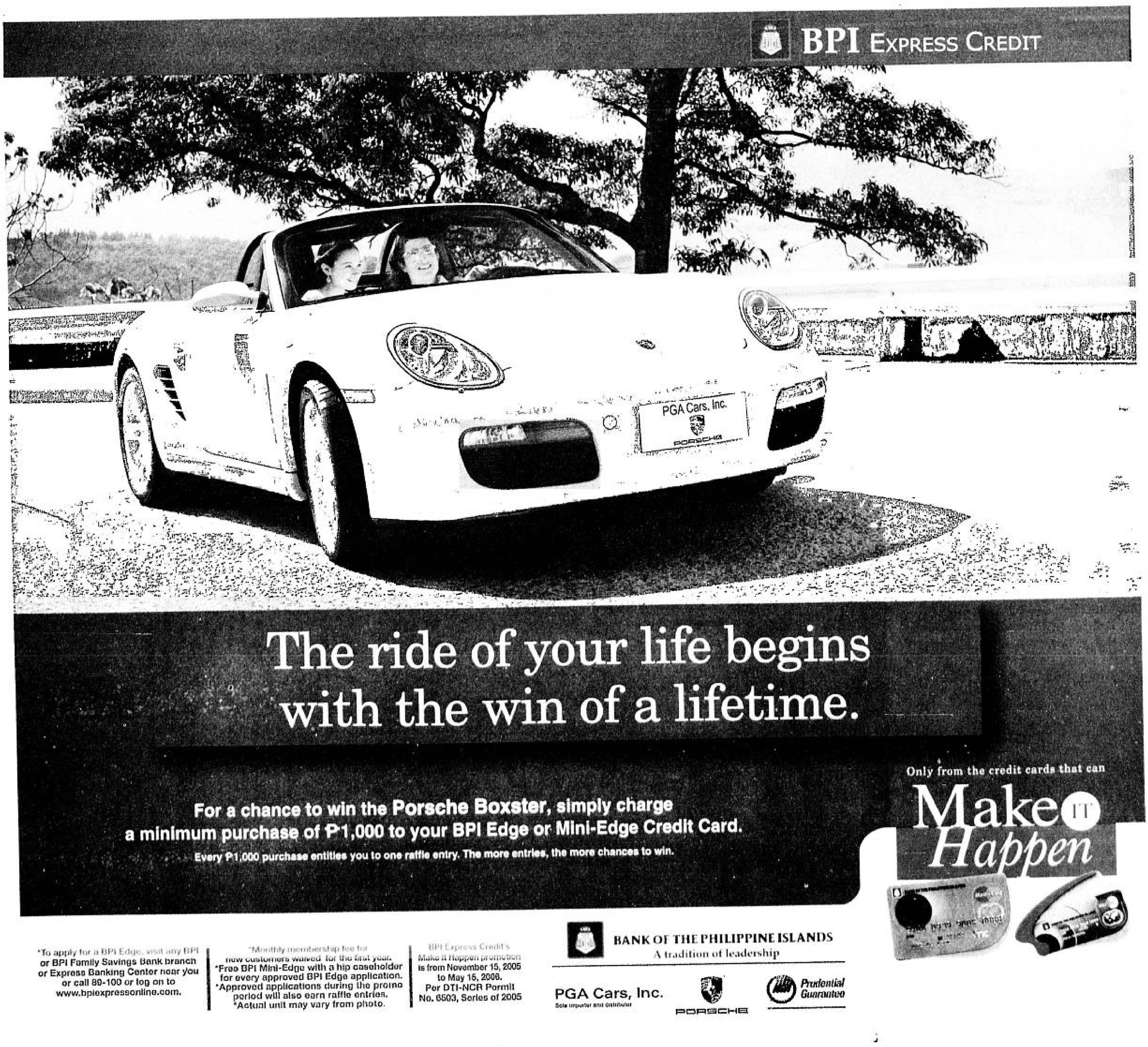
A FUN SUMMER MEAL JUST WOULDN'T BE complete without a delectably decadent scoop of your favorite ice cream. Now, even the calorie-conscious can indulge in this classic treat. With new Selecta Lite, you get the delicious, full-flavored ice cream taste, without the guilt!

The new Selecta Lite ice creams come in the three popular flavors—Double Dutch, with the smooth, classic taste of vanilla mixed with chocolate chips, chunky cashew nuts and chewy marshmallows; Very Rocky Road, with the exciting texture of crunchy nuts and sweet marshmallows blended in pure, rich chocolate cream; and Cookies and Cream, vanilla with crisp cookie chunks.

Selecta Lite is 94-percent fat-free and has 35 percent less sugar. It uses no artificial additives as substitutes for fat and sugar. This gives you a healthier dessert alternative with the rich, mouth-watering flavor you've always craved.

Each full-flavored serving of Double Dutch, Cookies and Cream or Very Rocky Road adds up to only 100 calories. Any of these sumptuous ice cream flavors could cap off your vacation-day food trip, or give you a delightful way to cool off in the middle of a long, hot afternoon.

Add Selecta Lite to your summer menu and enjoy a healthy twist to your favorite dessert. With these lite and yummy options, ice cream fans now have even more reasons to celebrate!



BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

PGA Cars, Inc.
PORSCHE

The ride of your life begins with the win of a lifetime.

For a chance to win the Porsche Boxster, simply charge a minimum purchase of ₱1,000 to your BPI Edge or Mini-Edge Credit Card.

Every ₱1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry. The more entries, the more chances to win.

Only from the credit cards that can
Make IT Happen

*To apply for a BPI Edge, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

*Monthly membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Free BPI Mini-Edge with a hip caseholder for every approved BPI Edge application.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make it Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6503, Series of 2005

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PGA Cars, Inc.
Sole importer and distributor

PORSCHE

Prudential Guarantee